

MINUTES OF THE NHCOG MEETING OF July 11, 2019

Members or Representatives in Attendance:

Barkhamsted, Don Stein	Burlington, Ted Shafer
Canaan, Henry Todd	Cornwall, Gordon Ridgway
Hartland, Wade Cole	Kent, Bruce Adams
Litchfield, Leo Paul	Morris, Tom Weik
Norfolk, Matt Riiska	North Canaan, Charles Perotti
Roxbury, Barbara Henry	Salisbury, Curtis Rand
Torrington, Elinor Carbone	Warren, Craig Nelson
Winchester, Bob Geiger	

Others in Attendance:

Ellen Graham, Sen. Blumenthal's office; Emily Armstrong and Chelsea Fann, Rep. Jahana Hayes' office; Katherine Dube, COST; Steve Silver and Hedy Ayers, Eversource; Deb Aleksinas, LARC; Gertrude O'Sullivan, Foundation for Community Health; Priscilla Pavel, Cornwall; April Chaplin, Kennedy Center; Jim O'Leary, Public Safety Task Force; Paul Gibb, Region 5 Special Projects Coordinator; David Battista, Lenard Engineers; Rick Lynn and Jocelyn Ayer, NHCOG staff; Media Representatives

Call to Order and Opportunity for Public Comment. Patrick Sullivan from the Lakeville Journal introduced two student interns that were accompanying him today. Hedy Ayers distributed and reviewed two handouts from Eversource: one on economic development and one on a new Eversource mobile app. Emily Armstrong and Chelsea Fann introduced themselves from Rep. Jahana Hayes office. Ellen Graham introduced herself from Senator Blumenthal's office. Bruce Adams congratulated Jim O'Leary on his recent volunteerism recognition.

Town by Town Issues and Updates by COG Members. Topics addressed included:

- Growing concern with black bears and interest in local ordinances to prohibit feeding of bears
- Status of local road and bridge construction projects
- Initiation of trail work on the Naugatuck River Greenway in Torrington
- Local summer festivals
- Opening of Little Red Barn Brewery in Winsted
- Status of proposed Winsted sewer extension to Barkhamsted
- Wastewater management issue in West Cornwall
- Connectivity workshop in Cornwall
- Tribal recognition initiative
- Growing social services demands at the local level

Overview of Pavement Management Guidebook for the Northwest Hills. David Battista, P.E., from Lenard Engineering distributed and reviewed the "Pavement Management Guidebook" he prepared under contract to the NHCOG. He discussed pavement rating systems; pavement design; pavement maintenance, rehabilitation and reconstruction alternatives; a profile of local road improvement project costs in the region; and the steps to preparing a local pavement management plan. He mentioned that a similar presentation was made to the Northwest Hills Road Supervisor Association. Following Dave's presentation, Bob Geiger stated that the pavement management plan prepared by Lenard Engineering for Winchester has been extremely helpful in scheduling priority projects and addressing local concerns about paving priorities. Wade Cole stated that the Superpave mix being used on state roads does not work as well as the Marshall mix that towns have traditionally used.

Lessons Learned and Best Practices from Storm Events of May 15, 2018. Paul Gibb, Special Projects Coordinator for DEMHS Region 5, presented powerpoint slides on the local impact of the damaging winds sustained by towns to our south during the May 15th storm events. The most significant problems were caused by blocked roads which made search and rescue very difficult. Some towns requested mutual aid, others did not. Over 75 fire departments ultimately responded to the incident. Paul reviewed the make-safe protocol and stressed the importance of towns following this protocol in order to receive needed aid. A best practices reference sheet is available on the Region 5 website. Paul stated that following the storm event, interest was expressed for better coordinating public works crews for such disasters similar to the plans that are in place for the fire departments. Jim O'Leary emphasized the importance of CEO support for mutual aid planning and stated that there appears to be little awareness of the Region 5 Regional Emergency Support Plan. COG members expressed support for developing a model for coordinated public works response to major disasters. In response to a question from Barbara Henry, Jim stated that John Field should be contacted for activation of the Incident Management Team. Ted Shafer expressed interest in scheduling a regional training session for CEOs. Bruce Adams asked about coordination of emergency response with neighboring states and was advised by Jim O'Leary that such advance planning was very limited.

Update on Regional Food Hub. Jocelyn Ayer reviewed a handout with an update on the Food Hub. The Hub is now picking up locally grown food at 20 farms in the region as listed on the handout and delivering it to 25 wholesale buyers including schools and grocery stores. Work on the farm-to-school initiative funded by a CT Department of Agriculture grant is underway and we expect that it will result in more local food on the plates of students this coming school year. The COG was also awarded a \$42,900 grant from the Northwest Building Healthier Communities Fund, a fund of the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation, for a Produce Prescription Pilot Project that will serve 150 participants in Torrington and Winsted this summer/Fall.

Administrative Items

- a) On a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes for the meeting of June 13, 2019 were unanimously approved.
- b) On a motion duly made and seconded, the Financial Statement for May 2019 was unanimously approved.
- c) Authorization for Executive Committee to Act on Regional Animal Facility Bid and East Main Street Corridor Management Consultant Request. Following a brief summary of these two projects by Rick Lynn, COG members unanimously voted to authorize the Executive Committee to act on their behalf.
- d) Status of Advertising for COG Regional Planner Position. Rick Lynn reviewed the job description and plans for advertising the position.
- e) Budget Amendment to Accommodate Regional Service Grant Funding for FY 2019-20. Rick Lynn reviewed the need for amending the budget to accommodate the increase in RSG funding. On a motion duly made and seconded, the amendment included in the agenda packet was unanimously approved.
- f) Bruce Adams requested and received approval to amend the agenda to include action on a resolution that is required to receive the RSG funding from OPM. On a motion duly made and seconded, the resolution was unanimously approved.

Committee Updates

- a) Regional Animal Facility. Mayor Carbone updated COG members on the final design of the facility which has a bid opening for construction on July 24th.
- b) DEMHS Region 5. John Field was unable to attend today's meeting and Rick Lynn stated that the application materials for the 2019 Homeland Security Grant have been received and an August 19th meeting of the REPT is scheduled to act on a Spending Plan.

Other Business as Raised by Members and Adjournment. There was no other business raised and the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.