

MINUTES OF THE NHCOG MEETING  
March 10, 2022 held via Zoom

Members or Representatives in Attendance:

Barkhamsted, Donald Stein	Burlington, Douglas Thompson
Canaan, Henry Todd	Colebrook, Christopher Johnstone
Cornwall, Gordon Ridgway	Goshen, Todd Carusillo
Hartland, Magi Winslow	Harwinton, Michael Criss
Kent, Jean Speck	Litchfield, Denise Rapp
Morris, Thomas Weik	Norfolk, Matthew Riiska
North Canaan, Charles Perotti	Roxbury, Patrick Roy
Salisbury, Curtis Rand	Sharon, Brent Colley
Torrington, Elinor Carbone	Warren, Greg LaCava
Washington, Jim Brinton	Winchester, Joshua Kelly

Others in Attendance:

Betsy Paynter; Catherine Awwad, NRWIB; John Field, DEMHS Region 5; Jocelyn Ayer, Director Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity; Leonardo Ghio, Rural Healthcare Resource Coordinator

NHCOG Staff: Rob Phillips and Sarah Better

Call to Order and Opportunity for Public Comment - Brian Mattiello from Charlotte Hungerford had a meeting on Children and Adolescent Behavioral Needs in Northwest CT. Items that require local response 1. Rapid expansion of social and recreational activities 2. To bring support to the local collaborative 3. Network lead navigator – all the providers time this together. There isn't a state funding stream. Proposal for three-year funding. This does involve towns contributing funds. Jean Speck suggested that we should have a discussion so all towns can understand the funding. Greg LaCava agreed. John Simoncelli is also working on this and willing to answer any questions anyone may have.

Report of the Executive Director –

- Rob presented the survey results and discussed the Staffing plan for the COG. 16 of the 21 municipalities responded. Don Stein suggested the Executive Committee have a discussion and report back to the group in the April Meeting. Jean Speck commented on the grant writing and grant management needs to be a priority for a new NHCOG employee. Denise Raap also mentioned that Regional Recycling coordinator would be helpful as well. Rob will get the executive committee together to discuss further
- Future of the NHCOG Meetings- conflict with the April meeting date. Do we move toward a hybrid meeting moving forward or meet in person in the new NHCOG boardroom which is hopefully completed soon. Do we continue with zoom or move to in person? Rob will send out an email to poll everyone about the April meeting being in person and date change.
- NHMP – please get in your certificate as soon as possible
- Betsy Paynter – Marketing and social media is going well. Keeping an eye on the Berkshires and Millerton. Spring campaign for shop local buy local. Job Fair through the Chamber of Commerce. Things are moving forward!

Municipal Forum – Towns are busy right now with budget season upon us. Some concerns about mill rates, over budget for the highway departments for fuel and salt/sand. ARPA funds discussion and MIRA still a concern.

Updates on Activities of the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board (NRWIB) - Catherine Awwad from NRWIB – moved to April meeting due to conflict with another meeting.

Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity – Jocelyn Ayer, Director – Gave an overview of LCCHO. Jocelyn also requested approval for the LCCHO and NHCOC to partner so that the Affordable Housing Plans can still be done through the NHCOC. Henry Todd moved for approval with Jim Brinton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

DEMHS Update - John Field, DEMHS Region 5 Supervisor – Covid is winding down. Housing has become a huge issue that needs to be addressed as well as childcare. FEMA is going to try to assist with this issue. DEMHS update – vacant positions are trying to be filled. Some have already been filled. Meeting on March 31, 2022 at Litchfield Inn.

Committee Updates – Michael Criss – Short legislative session proving to be challenging. The draft includes remote meetings, housing needs assessment, mill rate cap on motor vehicle tax, and trash bill. Michale thanked COST and CCM for their communication and support. Henry Todd moved to approve the Legislative Priority List. Charles Perotti second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Items

a) ACTION – Approval of Minutes from February 10, 2022 (Attachment D) Charles Perotti moved to approve the minutes Todd Carusillo second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b) ACTION – Approval of Financial Statement for January 2022 (Attachment E) Henry Todd moved to approve the Financial Statement. Charles Perotti seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c) ACTION – PWEC 2022 Rates (Attachment to be provided) – rates to be determined

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah B. Better  
NHCOC Financial/Office Manager