

MINUTES OF THE NHCOG MEETING
January 13, 2022 held via Zoom

Members or Representatives in Attendance:

Barkhamsted, Don Stein	Burlington, Douglas Thompson
Canaan, Henry Todd	Colebrook, Christopher Johnstone
Cornwall, Gordon Ridgway	Goshen, Todd Carusillo
Harwinton, Michael Criss	Kent, Jean Speck
Litchfield, Denise Raap	Morris, Tom Weik
New Hartford, Dan Jerram	Norfolk, Matt Riiska
North Canaan, Charlie Perotti	Salisbury, Curtis Rand
Sharon, Brent Colley	Washington, Jim Brinton
Warren, Greg LaCava	Winchester, Josh Kelly

Others in Attendance:

Hedy Ayers, Eversource; John Field, DEMHS Region 5; Betsy Gara, COST Executive Director; Catherine Awwad, NRWIB; Michelle Puzzo, UR Community Cares; John Simoncelli, Greenwoods Counseling; Alvin Bingham, CHRO; April Chaplin, The Kennedy Center; Gertrude Sullivan, Foundation for Community Health

NHCOG Staff: Rob Phillips, Janell Mullen, and Sarah Better

Call to Order and Opportunity for Public Comment. The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Don Stein at 10:04 am. John Simoncelli began by reporting 19 overdoses, including two deaths, since the last meeting.

Report of the Executive Director. Rob Phillips began by mentioning that the organization is down to three full time staff. He will be meeting with executive committee to review core GOG services. Rob referenced Attachment C, The December Financial Statement. Also gave an update on Covid test kits; will be a challenge to obtain more tests kits. Speed signs – all municipalities have received them but not all set up yet. New broadband consultant Janet Carlson who will be working with Betsy Paynter. Also, Leonardo Ghio has been hired as a Health Care Coordinator.

Municipal Forum. Most member towns are requiring face masks in town buildings. Towns have dispersed Covid-19 test kits as they are available. Masks are available at the town hall's as well. Magi Winslow of Hartland thanked John Field from DEMHS for all his hard work with Covid. Kudos to Kent for their Covid testing site. "Brown Outs" were discussed as towns received notification from Eversource for towns to be prepared. Hedy Ayers from Eversource said a presentation is in the works to go out to the municipalities within the next few weeks.

Outlook for Legislative Session Emerging Priorities of Council of Small Towns. Betsy Gara, COST Executive Director, kindly offered to move her updates till next NHCOG Monthly Meeting on February 10 due to time restraints.

Updates on Activities of the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board (NRWIB) Catherine Awwad from NRWIB kindly offered to move her updates till next NHCOG Monthly Meeting on February 10 due to time restraints as well.

Presentation on the Potential Services of UR Community Cares to the Region Michelle Puzzo from UR Community Cares presented a brief overview of the nonprofit program. It provides volunteers to help seniors and disabled community members with tasks they may need, such as cleaning.

DEMHS Update. John Field, DEMHS Region 5 Supervisor, reported that they worked through New Year's weekend to put together regional distribution for Covid test kits. Masks are available as well. He's also trying to get out to meet all new CEO's

Overview of municipal responsibility in state-funded public works. Alvin Bingham, Commission on Human Rights Opportunities (CHRO) Contact Alvin any questions you may have before bid goes out for any project over \$50,000.00. Feel free to contact him at Alvin.Bingham@ct.gov or 860-541-4709 with any questions.

Action – Amendment to approve two projects Torrington -Route 4 traffic control signal and Harwinton - Route 4 traffic control signal, to be moved to next year. Dan Jerram moved accept and Matt Riiska seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Administrative Items

a) ACTION – Nomination and Election of At Large Executive Committee Member for unexpired term in FY2021-2022 - Michael Criss moved to elect Dan Jerram to Executive Committee Member. Denise Raap seconded motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b) ACTION – Approval of Minutes from December 9, 2021 (Attachment B) Jean Speck moved to approve the minutes Todd Carusillo second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c) ACTION – Approval of Financial Statement for November 2021 (Attachment C) Jean Speck moved to approve the Financial Statement. Denise Raap seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business as Raised by Members and Adjournment. Michael Criss will be putting together a meeting on Thursday, January 20, 2022 to review ARPA and the new ruling.

The meeting adjourned at 11:52 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah B. Better
NHCOC Financial/Office Manager