



MINUTES OF THE NHCOCG MEETING
July 14, 2022 - held hybrid via ZOOM

Members or Representatives in Attendance:

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| Barkhamsted, Donald Stein | Burlington, Douglas Thompson (remote) |
| Canaan, Henry Todd | Colebrook, Christopher Johnstone |
| Cornwall, Gordon Ridgway (remote) | Goshen, Todd Carusillo |
| Hartland, Magi Winslow (remote) | Harwinton, Michael Criss (absent) |
| Kent, Jean Speck (remote) | Litchfield, Denise Raap (remote) |
| Morris, Tom Weik | New Hartford, Dan Jerram (absent) |
| Norfolk, Matt Riiska (absent) | North Canaan, Charlie Perotti (remote) |
| Roxbury, Patrick Roy (remote) | Salisbury, Curtis Rand (remote) |
| Sharon, Brent Colley (absent) | Torrington, Elinor Carbone (remote) |
| Warren, Greg LaCava | Washington, Jim Brinton (absent) |
| Winchester, Josh Kelly (remote) | |

Others in Attendance: Daniel Davis, Community Relations Specialist at Eversource, Hedy Ayers, Eversource, and John Field, DEMHS Region 5 Coordinator.

NHCOCG Staff: Robert Phillips and Kasey Faraci

Call to Order and Opportunity for Public Comment - Chairman Todd called the meeting to order at 10:05AM. NHCOCG Executive Director Robert Phillips acknowledge former Donald Stein for his many years of services

Report of the Executive Director – Mr. Phillips informed the Board that he is working with the PAC group on the NHCOCG building expansion updates. Mike Criss and Bob Valentine is working on a revised cost estimate for the expansion of 30% of the existing space. Anticipated construction this September. The COG staff will be participating in a staff retreat planning session next week. Mr. Phillips provided the listing of primary responsibilities of staff with Kasey Faraci covering transportation initiatives and Emily Hultquist covering the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the regions and land use referrals. Mr. Phillips will be working on the administration of the COG and financing with Sarah Better. Henry Todd proposed that the Board be able to authorize the Executive Committee to approve possible construction bid increase as long as it is within 10% to 15%. Otherwise, construction may need to be delayed. Donald Stein made a motion to approve, and Greg LaCava seconded. Motion was passed unanimously.

Introduction of Daniel Davis, New CT Eversource Community Relations Specialist – Mr. Davis introduced himself and stated that he is the new CR representative for the Northwest Hills area. Steven Silver has

retired. He also introduced Hedy Ayers and Jay Samuels, who is a new CR for the eastern region of the state.

Overview of the upcoming Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIP) – Kasey Faraci provided a PowerPoint presentation on the upcoming TRIP program. A copy of the presentation was shared with the First Officials after the meeting via email. Mr. Phillips shared that there will be a Road Supervisors meeting in September and more information can be shared at this meeting.

Update on Broadband Regional Initiative – Don Stein provided summary of working group meeting. Working group members include Kim Maxwell, Henry Todd, and Donald Stein. Next steps will be to reach out to towns who are in need of fiber optic installation and put together a consortium to present a proposal to the State. The towns will need to come together to qualify. It is anticipated that approximately \$200 million will be given to the State once the unserved number is determined.

DEMHS Update – John Field, DEMHS Region 5 Coordinator, provided an update on the loss of staff and restructuring due to retirements. Staff is currently working to obtain EMPG funding. Public Assistance folks are working on obtaining reimbursement for COVID and storm relief. There is approximately \$500,000 coming back to the State. He mentioned that the School Safety and Security Working Group continues to meet and review local region 5 plans drill logs and provide lessons learned. Homeland Security Grant funds will become available soon. New state applicable statutes are currently being reviewed. Meetings are being held for urban search and rescue task force for emergency management utilizing airplanes and helicopters. They are currently working with ESF Chairmen regarding the purchase of radios and equipment with the Homeland Security Grant funds. Paul Gibb is working on CEO training in the Fall. Work is also being done with Public Works Departments regarding mutual aid programs. Long-term recovery steering committee is working on gathering information from non-profits, municipalities, and FEMA for urban communities. Debris management training will be held for Public Works staff. They are currently working with the Department of Public Health regarding plans to combat the outbreak of Monkey Pox. Requests for more COVID tests were mentioned by several First Officials.

Municipal Forum – Information sharing round table

Barkhamsted – CCM and COST has put together a regional school working group which will be meeting within the next few months. Selectman Stein is part of a Legislative working group to help combat the solid waste issue.

Kent – The Town is currently working with the Board of Education regarding a proposal requesting a second Trooper to be used as a School Resource Officer.

Goshen – Town is currently developing a new flag ordinance on town properties.

Discussions on the high cost of EV charging stations. Suggestion was made to share this concern with Rep. Maria Horn.

Warren – Town is currently handling guiderail issues surrounding Lake Waramaug and bear control

Colebrook – Town also has issues with the bears. Reporting to DEEP needs to be conducted.

Burlington – Town recently purchased treasury notes which generated \$270,000 annually in interest. These notes utilize reserve accounts and help take advantage of the higher interest rates.

Request for Letters of Support for Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) Applications – STEAP Grants are due August 15th. The COG can offer assistance in providing letters of support for these capital grant projects. Donald Stein made a motion to approve authorization to allow the COG to provide letters of support and was seconded by Jean Speck. Motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Items

- a) ACTION - Approval of Minutes from June 9, 2022, Christopher Johnston moved to approve the minutes Jean Speck second the motion. The motion passed with two abstentions from Burlington and Harwinton.
- b) ACTION – Approval of Financial Statement for May. Henry Todd made a motion to table this approval till the next meeting. Todd Carusillo second this motion. Motion is passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35am and moved into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

NHCOG staff