



**MINUTES OF THE NHCOCG MEETING
September 8, 2022**

Members or Representatives in Attendance:

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

Others in Attendance: Judge Robert Devlin and Chief James Viadero, Noah Slovin, and Jocelyn Ayer

NHCOCG Staff: Robert Phillips, Emily Hultquist, Kathryn Faraci, and Sarah Better

Call to Order and Opportunity for Public Comment - Chairman Todd called the meeting to order at 10:02AM.

Report of the Executive Director – Robert Phillips provided a brief overview of the proposed move to 59 Field Street in Torrington vs staying in the current location of 59 Torrington Road in Goshen. A motion was made by Criss, seconded by LaCava and passed unanimously, to enter a non-binding Letter of Intent (LOI), as recommended by the Executive Committee at their Sept 8th special meeting immediately preceding this meeting.

The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be held on October 8th. There was an increase in the collection cost due to market forces and was approved by the Recycling Advisory Committee. This applied to both the spring 2022 event and the upcoming fall 2022 event. The two-year agreement will end after that and NHCOCG will re-bid out for another cycle.

There was discussion regarding the new voicemail system and how this system transfers messages via emails amongst the staff. Also, the COG is looking into establishing an information registry for the public to receive meeting agendas on the NHCOCG website.

Presentation on Use of Deadly Force, Police Shootings, and in Custody Deaths – Judge Robert Devlin from the Office of Inspector General provided an overview of the 2020 Police Accountability Act and the creation of the office. The Act covers Officer involvement with use of force that results in death and death while in police custody. Training has been provided to cover de-escalating techniques to help avoid use of deadly force at POST-C. Judge Devlin encourage all Board members that when the media begins to inquire about an incident of this nature, they should direct their inquiries to the Office of Inspector General. Every Inspector is a retired Police Officer.

NHCOG's Hazard Mitigation Plan: Action Implementation and Funding Opportunities – Noah Slovin, Associate Resiliency Planner for SLR, provided a presentation on the update of the Hazardous Mitigation Plan. The plan addresses natural hazards and hazard mitigation. Documents stating top hazards within each community were made available after the meeting.

- PowerPoint version of the presentation: <https://filetransfer.slrconsulting.com/link/OeAhXigDNe0FyZxmS0fhyu>
- MJ Document and Municipal Annexes in printable format: <https://filetransfer.slrconsulting.com/link/YMLP2ILk2BYIS6kVHs9xue>
- All MH Plan Appendices: <https://filetransfer.slrconsulting.com/link/>

Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity and NWCT Food Hub – Jocelyn Ayer, from the Center for Housing Opportunity shared that they received a \$500,000 grant which allowed for the hiring of a new project manager and provide pre-development seed funding. They are currently working with the Housing Authority on ten projects. September 20th is the next regional housing meeting. There will also be a hybrid summit on October 18th with the Commissioner of Public Housing being one of the guest speakers. The Food Hub received a \$300,000 grant which will allow 15 local farms to deliver to local food pantries. The Food Hub did conduct a strategic plan to guide future funding initiatives.

Transportation Program Updates – Kathryn Faraci provided a brief presentation on the region's LOTCIP program and the Transportation Alternatives (TA) program. Mayor Elinor Carbone provided an overview of the proposed Torrington Sue Grossman Still River Greenway Enhancement project. The COG Board was asked to reaffirm this project as a priority project for the region under the TA program. Selectman Mike Criss made the motion and seconded by Selectman Dan Jerram. The motion was passed unanimously. A resolution was signed by Selectman Charles Perotti and forwarded to the CTDOT.

Rob Phillips presented the following STIP amendments. ACTION – Approvals for Project No. 00170-3633, 0170-3635 and 0170-3636 Transportation Assets, Bridge and Pavement Project was made by Michael Criss and seconded by Dan Jerram. Motion was passed unanimously. ACTION – Approval for Project 0170-3639 the Computerized Traffic Signal Systems Operational Improvement Project was made by Don Stein and seconded by Charles Perotti. Motion was passed unanimously.

Update on the Economic Development/EDA Grant/ Broadband Regional Initiative – John Fiorello of Northwest Connecticut Community College has asked that NHCOG be represented on the Center on Rural Innovation's Digital Economy Assessment task force and Emily will be filling that role.

The next Economic Development Committee meeting is set for October 26th and will be conducted as a roundtable discussion to hear updates from all of the members. We will also discuss the work we will undertake in the next three-year grant cycle.

NHCOG was awarded a \$60,000 Partnership Planning Grant for the next three-year period and part of that work will be to update the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the region. Other items covered in the scope of work are our work on broadband, support of arts and culture initiatives, the creating of a business retention and expansion program and support of the Food Hub.

NHCOG jointly submitted a response to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Request for Information in anticipation of developing a strategy for accessing and distributing Federal BEAD funds.

Municipal Forum – Information sharing round table:

Barkhamsted – The Town currently has a signed agreement with Winsted for a new water sewer line. Selectman Stein is continuing to be actively involved in the Legislative working group to help combat the solid waste issue. He also stated that the region needs to ramp up the Broadband initiative.

Morris – A town meeting will be held for the approval of an emergency generator installation at the Fire House.

Goshen – Pavement projects are currently being constructed and the town recently bought a new John Deere bulldozer. They are researching options for a building location to store town equipment.

North Canaan – The Town established a Bear Ordinance noting a \$100 fine and involvement with the local Animal Control.

New Hartford – The Town is working on a Bear Ordinance and establish an event center ordinance as well.

Harwinton – The Town has several projects underway including a bridge project as well as extending the waterlines to existing town garages. An ordinance was passed to appoint the Town Clerk. The Town is currently waiting for the county cut of ARPA funds.

Torrington – The construction on Prospect Street is almost complete. The City received a BAR Grant through DECD. The grant will provide funding for a feasibility study in the area of Route 4 and Midgeon Avenue. This is an 11-acre parcel. Franklin Plaza is an example of the successful use of the BAR grant. The High School and Middle School are currently under construction. There will be Torrington River Front ribbon cutting ceremony the first week in October.

Norfolk – Two bridge construction projects are finishing up. The town received \$1.3 million in CBDG funding. Monies are being set aside to preserve the Infinity Hall property. Good Works Entertainment will be the major booking coordinator. The town is also working with the Yale Repertory Theatre and Music Department for the use of the hall. They are looking for a group of people to form a 5013C.

Warren – The Town is currently working several capital improvements and they are currently waiting on STEEP grant to be awarded. The position for a town Tax Collector is open. Through work with the DOT, speeds were reduced from 45mph to 35mph around Lake Waramaug. Crosswalks are being established along with signage for No Thru tractor trailers. Medic 4 is ending. Trinity stated that they are no longer interested. There will be no Fall Festival however, there will be a golf tournament at Lake Waramaug Country Club.

Colebrook - Three bridge projects will be completed soon. The town has a part-time Zoning Enforcement Officer position available, and they are currently working on an affordable housing plan.

Litchfield – The town recently passed a food truck ordinance. Fire Marshall will ensure registry. The establishment of a cannabis dispensary is on the ballot. They are currently working on an affordable housing plan and are also using \$60,000 in ARPA funds for broadband cell service for the fire house. The rollout will be by 2024. The town applied for a SS4A grant. A meeting will be held on September 8th to discuss the consolidation of borrows with the Town of Litchfield having oversight. Five new parking lots are being constructed. The town is looking to pass an ordinance to give back the commercial tipping fees back to the user.

Canaan – The town installed a new stop sign.

Administrative Items

- a) ACTION - Approval of Minutes from July 14, 2022 and the Special Meeting Minutes for August 30, 2022 Don Stein moved to approve the minutes Tom Weik second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- b) ACTION – Approval of Financial Statements for May, June and July deferred till next meeting.
- c) ACTION – Support of 2022 TEEX Training Event on November 15, 2022, at the Litchfield Inn. Henry Todd moved to approve and Don Stein second the motion. Motion is passed unanimously.
- d) ACTION – Endorsement for Support Letters for the DEEP Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program. Michael Criss moved to approve and it was seconded by Denise Raap. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business – On October 22nd in Kent - 31 Kent Cornwall Road, Hudson Valley Preservation will be putting on an event called Touch a Trade which is designed to inspire and expose young people to trades such as carpentry, woodworking, electrical wiring, masonry, etc. The event is free and registration is available at <https://www.touchatrade.org/>

The meeting adjourned at 12:05pm

Respectfully submitted,

NHCOG staff/KF