



MINUTES OF THE NHCOCG MEETING
December 8, 2022

Members or Representatives in Attendance:

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

Others in Attendance: Leo Ghio, Rural Resource Coordinator, John Simoncelli, from Greenwoods Counseling, Mike Muszinski, from CCM (remote) and Besty Gara, from COST (remote), Daniel Davis and Tim Walberg ,Eversource, Sara Radacsi, CTDOT (remote)

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

Call to Order - Chairman Todd called the meeting to order at 10:0AM.

Report of the Executive Director – Robert Phillips shared the significant roadblocks that have occurred with the 59 Field Street location due to changes in rental terms and location change within the building. There are currently two options, one is relocating to the glass building in Torrington or build out in the current location. Mr. Phillips stated that he looks forward to sharing the options and details at an Executive Meeting shortly.

Outlook for the Upcoming 2023 Legislative Session and Emerging Priorities – Mike Muszinski from CCM and Besty Gara shared that that they are currently in the process of developing the 2023 Legislative Platform for review and will be shared at the January 11th Town Hall meeting in Southington. Ms. Gara mentioned that there are 8 new Senators and 28 new State Representatives. Discussions included increasing municipal aid this session to help keep in pace with inflation and be able to release municipal aid in a timely manner. The Bond Commission just release the first installment of the Town Aid Road Program. Support investment in local infrastructure, local capital improvement program, clean water funding, and increase funding for local bridge improvements. COST is also looking into modifying school construction formulas to allow the use of

federal funding as a match, funding for improvements for schools' HVAC systems and increase transportation efforts for special education students. Also, allow for municipalities to have more control over their budgets by having more flexibility on the minimum budget requirement. They will also be looking at providing towns with alternative and stable revenue sources. They will be investigating the benefits of regionalism and coalition collective bargaining and increasing funding to the COGs. They will be reviewing at a 5 year rolling average to assess regional school districts. Allow towns to use closed schools for possible affordable housing. They would be proposed a sustainable solid waste management solution, addressing Broadband issues, contaminated soil concerns, and provide assistance to towns seeking transit-oriented development.

Potential Pooling of Opioid Settlement Funds – John Simoncelli provided a Powerpoint presentation on the Torrington Area Health District Overdose Information which shared the current state of the addiction crisis in the community and some suggestions as to how to collectively use the Opioid Settlement Funds. The presentation can be found on the NHCOC YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCY2NQVNTUHUZ2gzoGNUJIMw/videos>

Report of the NHCOC Legislation Committee – Selectman Mike Criss provided information on various items of concern for the Northwest Hills region such as affordable utility costs, partnering with the State and support volunteer regionalization and affordable housing. Final list will be available for next month's meeting.

Economic Development Update – Selectman Stein provided an update that a meeting is planned in January 2023 to discuss the CEDS update and future funding allocation.

Transportation Planning Update – Rob Phillips provided a TRIP update along with an informational overview of the proposed FY2021 Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan amendment for Project 0150-0137 National Highway System Bridge Rehabilitation on US202 in Washington over the Shepaug River. This is a new project which will provide funding for Bridge 00906. The bridge was constructed in 1957 and reconstructed in 1988, it is currently listed in poor condition and requires rehabilitation. The reinforced concrete cast-in-place deck is driving the poor condition rating. Throughout the underside of the deck there are concrete repair patches, map cracking, deep spalling with exposed and debonded rebar, hollow areas, and heavy efflorescence at the deck ends. The superstructure is rated a 5 and is exhibiting significant rusting and section loss, especially at the beam ends, and needs to be addressed. The Preliminary Engineering phase includes a Preliminary Design/Final Design split. Selectman Weik made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Selectman Jerram amendment was passed unanimously.

DEHMS Update – John Field, DEHMS Region 5 Coordinator provided an update on the cold weather protocol and Homeland Security Grant funding, self-assessments for schools, EMPG expenditures, MOA inventory and custodial ownership forms need to be submitted in a timely fashion. National Guard will be providing cyber security assessments. Contact is: Josh Pasay CT National Guard – Cyber Security LT mobile: (860)970-2747 and email: Joshua.pasay@t.gov.

Municipal Forum:

Barkhamsted – By March, Frontier will be providing 100 coverage for the Town. Selectman Stein is resigning from MIRA after 12 years of service. Town is looking to establish a burning ordinance due to issues within the Town and they are currently working on a few STEAP grants.

Morris – Selectman Weik stated that they received a \$500,000 grant to reclaim and pave a roadway in town. They currently have two local bridge projects underway and are looking to submit a project under the new TRIPs program.

Roxbury – Selectman Roy voiced his concerns about Medic 4. Town will be pursuing TRIP monies and are currently working with Cardinal. Received LOCIP funds for computer upgrades.

Norfolk – Selectman Riiska stated that the town is still working on the major gasoline spill. Remediation continues. A ten-unit affordable housing building is being built. The Norfolk Foundation is developing a 5013c to take over Infinity Hall and up it up as Village Hall and will be leasing out space for a restaurant. The Town will be replacing a water main for current well system.

North Canaan – Selectman Perotti is looking at a reevaluation to drop the mill rate. They are also planning to submit a TRIPs project and are currently dealing with a chicken issue on Route 44,

Litchfield – Selectman Raap is looking into having non-residential users pay tipping fees for garbage. She will be serving as co-chair on the DEEP Increase Use and Recycle Program. Raap will be meeting with the DOT regarding the bridge construction on Route 202 and an alternative route plan. ARPA funding will be used for a section of the Shepaug Railway Greenway.

New Hartford – Selectman Jerram stated that the Town is looking to consolidate the Fire Department. A Town meeting was held to discuss the details of the burning ordinance. Also, discussions regarding tax abatements to develop local properties.

Goshen – Selectman Carusillo stated that the town is looking to fill a Social Worker position.

Winchester – Selectman Kelly stated that the Chief of Police is retiring. The Town is seeking grant opportunities to extend the Sue Grossman Greenway to downtown Winsted. They are currently meeting with developers for an RFQ for Bachelor’s School.

Cornwall – Social services are provided in town to maintain local food pantry. The town is struggling to obtain information from Optimum regarding cabinets.

Salisbury – Selectman Rand stated that he is currently trying to resolve a solid waste issue. Salisbury Bank is merging, and the town is looking to update their inland wetland regulations.

Administrative Items

- a) ACTION - Approval of Minutes from November 10, 2022. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Selectman Todd and second by Selectman Stein. Motion passed unanimously.
- b) ACTION – Approval of Financial Statements for October. Motion was made by Selectman Todd and second by Selectman Stein. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business and Public Comment – none

The meeting adjourned at 12:07pm

Respectfully submitted,

NHCOG staff