

ATTACHMENT B



MINUTES OF THE NHCOCG MEETING November 10, 2022

Members or Representatives in Attendance:

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

Others in Attendance: Leo Ghio, Rural Healthcare Resource Coordinator, Tim Walberg from Eversource, Andrew Bolger from SHFA, Jacqueline Kozin and Jessica Vargas from CTPL Authority (remotely), and Dr. Jeffrey Kitching from EdAdvance,

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

Tim Waldron introduced himself as the new Community Relations Specialist from Eversource. He is assigned to the northern portion of the region while Daniel Davis is assigned to the southern portion.

Selectman Riiska shared the issues the town is currently handling due to the 8,200 gallons of oil spilled on Route 44. Due to the quick response the spill did not impact any local waterways. Selectman Riiska thanked all the municipalities in the region for their assistance and support.

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

Report of the Executive Director – Robert Phillips shared that he and Emily Hultquist attended the CCM conference last week. One of the largest sessions was on the infrastructure funding. There were also discussions on the State’s workforce. They also attended a meeting with UCONN and CRCOG regarding the public work force development and filling of jobs in Connecticut. The NHCOCG was awarded \$15,000 under the Foundation for Community Health Grant and we have also engaged in a grant writer for the Health Resources and Services Administration grant (HRSA) which is a \$1.2 million grant over four years. Due to payment delays from the CTDOT, the NHCOCG is providing \$75,000 to the RITS providers upfront to assist

them in maintaining their current operations. NHCOC will be undergoing a DEHMS desk review to ensure that all our files are current. REPT meeting will be held on November 14, 2022, and the TEEEX training will be held at the Litchfield Inn on November 15th on the topic of Crisis Leadership.

Northwest Hills Housing Market & Market Trends – Andrew Bolger, from the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority provided a PowerPoint presentation on their campaign to assist in providing employment for individuals who are recovering from mental illness or substance abuse. Homelessness rates have increase by 13% within the Northwest Hills COG region.

CT Paid Leave Program – Jacqueline Kozin and Jessica Vargas provided a PowerPoint presentation on the updates to the Connecticut Paid Leave Program.

Recent Activities and Program Updates at EdAdvance – Executive Director Dr. Jeffrey C Kitching provided a brief overview of the services that EdAdvance provides to the Northwest Hills communities. The company provides transportation services to over 46,000 students and currently has 150 vans in operation and employs approximately 110 drivers. EdAdvance also provide support to municipal Boards of Education. He meets monthly with each of the School Superintendents to discuss any issues or areas where they can be of assistance. A copy of their annual report was provided to all attendees.

Economic Development Update – Emily Hultquist stated 100% of the region has affordable housing plans thankful to Jocelyn Ayer for all of her hard work. The NHCOC is working in collaboration with her agency and continuing to sit on the Regional Housing Council. A micro-meeting of the EDC was held this morning in tandem with the Northwest Hills Chamber of Commerce Economic Forecast. Next meeting will be in January. It was suggested that we survey the municipal EDCs and that is in preparation for updating our Comp. Economic Dev. Strategy. Regarding Broadband, our team has been out to meet with many of you regarding a regional coalition on broadband and we have a substantial portion of the region that is interested in presenting a united front in bringing money into the region for broadband. We are continuing to monitor the activities of the private companies and their activities in the various communities of the region. There are a couple of Brownfields Redevelopment Revolving Loan Funds in CT one with NVCOC which some communities in the Northwest Hills may have used. But now the CRCOC Revolving Loan fund is also available to all our communities. CRCOC's Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund is now open to all municipalities that belong to a COG that does not have a Brownfield Program. We recently extended our RLF cooperative agreement for 2 more years and as part of the extension, we added in all the towns that are members of Northwest Hills COG, West COG, SCRCOC, River COG, SECCOC, and NECOC. Applications are available on our website and if anyone has questions, call at 860-724-4211 or email mgoulet@crcoc.org. Currently, our Brownfields Assessment program is not available outside of the Sustainable Knowledge Corridor, but we will revisit when we extend that agreement.

DEHMS Update – CT DEHMS continues to replace personnel/positions lost to retirement. Training and orientation of new employees continues. Personnel continues to administer, facilitate, and assist local municipalities with Emergency Management Performance Grant program (EMPG). The current priority is to complete the 2018 EMPG documentation and assure municipalities receive their entitled reimbursement funds upon completion of paperwork. In accordance with State Statutes public and private school districts are required to submit their All Hazards Safety and Security Plans by November 1st. DEHMS continues to work with the CT's State Department of Education to assure all schools adhere to these Statutes. The Drill Logs are due July 1st. DHEMS Region 5 Office responded to the Town of Norfolk for a gasoline tanker accident on November 5th. They continue to work with and support the Town, the cleanup contractors and the many other State agencies working the incident. Norfolk has declared a local State of Emergency. CT IMT West has been activated and is assisting the Emergency Operations Center with planning, documentation, and possible reimbursement of costs. CT DEHMS Region 5 and School Security personnel performed an Active Shooter

Table-Top Exercise for Northwestern Regional #7 High and Middle School. The exercise participants included Barkhamsted and Winchester government, law enforcement, Winchester first responders, Winchester public schools, Gilbert school and Explorations. There will be upcoming training on Crisis Leadership on November 15, 2022, and AWR 148 Leadership/Management during Rural School Events on November 16, 2022. CERT Day was recently held at the CT Fire Academy. There were 135 CERT members attending the event. The event included medical services, fire service, drones, animal rescue, etc. The CT Department of Administrative Services and DEHMS recently worked to update the State Cyber Security Plan and implement Election Security protocol. An operational plan was created and implemented on election day.

Municipal Forum – Selectman Johnston mentioned the town’s need for inland/wetland Planning and Zoning Enforcement Officer. Selectman Speck stated that the Medic 4 contract is coming to an end June 30, 2023, and Trinity is not looking to renew.

Administrative Items

- a) ACTION - Approval of Minutes from October 20, 2022. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Selectman Criss and second by Selectman LaCava and passed unanimously.
- b) ACTION – Approval of Financial Statements for July, August and September. Motion was made by Selectman Criss and second by Selectman Stein. Motion passed unanimously.
- c) ACTION – Approval of the 2023 NHCOC Meeting Schedule. Motion to approve was made by Selectman Todd and seconded by Selectman Stein. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business and Public Comment – none

The meeting adjourned at 12:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

NHCOG staff