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MINUTES OF THE NHCOG MEETING

January 12, 2023

Members or Representatives in Attendance:

Barkhamsted, Donald Stein Burlington, Douglas Thompson (remote)

Canaan, Henry Todd Colebrook, Christopher Johnston

Cornwall, Gordon Ridgway (remote) Goshen, Todd Carusillo

Hartland, Magi Winslow (remote) Harwinton, Michael Criss

Kent, Jean Speck (remote) Litchfield, Denise Raap

Morris, Tom Weik New Hartford, Dan Jerram

Norfolk, Matt Riiska (absent) North Canaan, Charles Perotti

Roxbury, Patrick Roy Salisbury, Curtis Rand (remote)

Sharon, Brent Colley (remote) Torrington, Elinor Carbone (remote)

Warren, Greg LaCava Washington, Jim Brinton (remote)

Winchester, Josh Kelly (absent)

Others in Attendance: Leo Ghio, Rural Resource Coordinator, John Daniel Davis and Tim Waldron, Eversource, and Kevin Tedesco CTDOT, John Simoncelli and Sarah Toomey from the Greenwoods Counseling and Referrals, Inc., David Lukens CTOPM, and John Wardzala, The Kennedy Collective.

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

Call to Order - Chairman Todd called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

Public Comment – Daniel Davis from Eversource provided an update regarding storm Elliot and the availability for after-action storm meetings. There were over 200,000 outages statewide and categorized as a level 4 storm. Tim Waldron mentioned that Eversource is currently providing bill assistance webinars.

Narcan Exercise and Proposed Opioid Response Fund - Sarah Toomey, the Community Outreach and Recovery Navigator from Greenwoods Counseling and Referrals, Inc. provided a PowerPoint presentation on Opioid Overdose Recognize and Respond Naloxone (Narcan) Training. Leo Ghio will be sharing an opioid settlement mission statement for selectmen to present to their finance committees.

Report of the Executive Director – Robert Phillips provided an office situation update. Moving forward, NHCOG will continue to monitor the market. He also provided a summary of NHCOG staff duties. The COG will be looking to address future GIS needs and training on workplace diversity and harassment.

Community and Economic Development Update – Emily Hultquist shared the following information:

The 2022 State Broadband Report has been released by DEEP. Highlights of the report include a timeline for two funding opportunities, the CPF funded grants and the BEAD Program grants.

The Regional Housing Council still meets and is staffed by the Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity. The group will be making a presentation shortly at an upcoming NHCOG Board meeting to update the board on RHC activities. They will also participate in one of the upcoming 5th Thursday events in 2023 to help fulfil the affordable housing requirement of the newly required land use commissioner training.

The Executive Committee of the Northwest Connecticut Economic Development Commission will meet on January 16th to discuss the CEDs Update. The CEDS is due to be updated by December 2023.

Please direct all inquiries about letters of support for the DEEP Recreational Trails grant opportunity to Emily Hultquist. NHCOG is happy to provide letters – the due date for the grant applications is March 1, 2023.

Understanding the FCC and State Broadband Mapping and what it means for the NHCOG Region - David Lukens, Broadband Mapping Coordinator from CT DOT and Kevin Pisacish from CT DEEP provided a PowerPoint presentation on FCC and State broadband mapping and available resources. DEEPs 2022 Broadband report can be found on <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/energy/Broadband/DEEP_CT-Broadband-Report_FINAL.pdf>

Transportation Planning Update – Kathryn Faraci shared information regarding proposed projects received by CTDOT for inclusion into the 2023-2027 Draft Capital Plan. Also, a LOTCIP meeting will be held later this month for the five qualifying towns to establish project priorities and future programming. NHCOG is currently in the process of reestablishing the region’s Recycling Advisory Committee within the next month to review the current RFP for the 2023 Household Hazardous Waste contract. Also, a Roadway Supervisor’s Meeting is being held on January 25th to discuss Public Works equipment cooperative which will include updating the equipment list for our region as well as rental rates for the 2023 season.

Report of the NHCOG Legislation Committee – Selectman/ Chairman Mike Criss provided an overview on regional legislative priorities for the 2023 session and proposed recommendations. Discussions included legislation that would enable towns in a municipal school district to adopt a 3-5 year rolling average for municipal assessments to minimize the fiscal impacts in any one given year with the modification of allowing towns to opt-out. Motion was made to remove this legislation by Selectman Jerram and second by Selectman Carusillo. Topics also included ECS funding, middleclass tax cuts, affordable housing, and energy. Motion to adopt the legislative platform as revised was made by Selectman Jerram and second by Selectman Perotti and unanimously passed.

Administrative Items

1. ACTION - Approval of Minutes from December 8th, 2022. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Selectman Criss and second by Selectman Roy. Motion passed. Selectman Thompson abstained.
2. ACTION – Approval of Financial Statements for November was presented by Sarah Better. Motion was made by Selectman Stein and second by Selectman Criss. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business and Public Comment – The Housatonic River Commission has requested that the COG be the fiduciary in efforts to receive additional federal funding. Selectmen Criss made the motion to approve and was second by Selectman Carusillo. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:07pm

Respectfully submitted,

NHCOG staff