Logo

Description automatically generated

MINUTES OF THE NHCOG MEETING

April 6, 2023

Members or Representatives in Attendance:

Barkhamsted, Donald Stein (absent) Burlington, Douglas Thompson (absent)

Canaan, Henry Todd Colebrook, Christopher Johnston

Cornwall, Gordon Ridgway Goshen, Todd Carusillo

Hartland, Magi Winslow (absent) 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 Salisbury, Curtis Rand (absent)

Sharon, Brent Colley (absent) Torrington, Elinor Carbone

Warren, Greg LaCava Washington, Jim Brinton

Winchester, Josh Kelly (absent)

Others in Attendance: Leo Ghio, Rural Resource Coordinator, John Field, DEMHS Region 5 Coordinator, Grayson Wright, CTDOT, Eversource Representatives, John Daniel Davis and Tim Waldron.

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

Call to Order - Chairman Todd called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

Public Comment – none

Report of the Executive Director – Robert Phillips shared the three quotes provided for the fit out at the proposed new NHCOG office location. A motion to approve an amended lease to accommodate specific clauses was made by Selectman Brinton and seconded by Selectman LaCava. CAMA data and GIS parcel data are due May 1st.

How Municipalities use State and Federal Funding to Meet Their POCD Open Space Goals by Pairing CT DEEP’s Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program (OSWA) and Federal Highlands Act Funding – Connie Manes and Julia Rogers from Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative, Housatonic Valley Association shared a presentation on this topic.

Presentation on Mission of FISH NWCT – Deirdre DiCara, Executive Director of Friends in Service to Humanity of Northwest CT (FISH) Homeless Shelter shared information of the programs they provide along with an overview of their annual mid-year report as well as seeking municipal support for several applicable proposed legislative House Bills.

Report of the NHCOG Legislation Committee – Chairman Mike Criss shared an update on various legislative House and Senate Bills and noted that 87 testimonies were provided.

Community and Economic Development Update – Emily Hultquist shared that the EDC Executive Committee met on April 5th and is making progress toward setting up the next full EDC meeting with the goal of having selected a data consultant and a public involvement/facilitation consultant by that time. Ms. Hultquist shared that she has attended a meeting of the Washington Economic Development Commission and is planning to attend an April meeting of the Salisbury Economic Development Commission to introduce herself, explain ways that the EDCs can participate in the upcoming CEDS update and understand what each of the towns is working on in the area of economic development. Ms. Hultquist said that she would be interested in visiting more municipal EDCs as well as Planning and Zoning Commissions. Finally, Ms. Hultquist stated that she will be reaching out to board members to gain interest over the coming months on submitting an application for Regional Performance Incentive Grant Funding to procure the services of a Tax Assessor to serve multiple towns.

Transportation Planning Update – Kathryn Faraci shared information on proposed 2025-2028 STIP amendments for Replacement, rehabilitation, or removal of retaining walls in CTDOT District 4. Replacement of traffic control signals in District 4. Installation and removal of overhead sign supports at various locations. Repair of embankment on Lake Waramaug Bridge in Warren.

Upgrade rotary and pedestrian improvements in Goshen. Replacement of bridge over brook in Harwinton. Pavement rehabilitation on Campville Road in Litchfield. Motioned to approve the STIP amendments was made by Selectman Carusillo and second by Selectman Perotti. Motion passed unanimously. Thirteen applications have been submitted to NHCOG and as discussed with the CTDOT Bureau of Policy and Planning. NHCOG plans to submit all thirteen applications. As this new program rolls out, the intent is to have future discussions with the DOT to determine alternative funding programs if the TRIPS becomes fully obligated.

DEHMS Update – John Field, DEMHS Region 5 Coordinator shared that they continue to participate in meetings that Eversource is having with municipalities. The agency is currently working on Route 8 Diversion Plans with the CTDOT. He also shared that the COVID Public Assistance deadline is approaching soon. DEHMS continues to work on the Region 5 Strategic Plan and training initiatives.

Administrative Items

1. **ACTION** - Approval of Meeting Minutes for March 9, 2022. Selectman Carusillo made the motion to approve and seconded by Selectman Johnston. Motion passed unanimously.
2. **ACTION** - Approval of Financial Statement for February, Selectman Carusillo made the motion to approve and seconded by Selectman Perotti. Selectman Jerram voted against the approval.
3. **ACTION** – Acceptance of Audit for FY2021-22. Selectman Todd made the motion to approve and seconded by Selectman Perotti with the amendment of follow-up discussion along with monthly reviews. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Appointment of Nominating Committee for NHCOG Officers and Executive Committee for FY2023-2024 beginning July 1, 2023. The Executive Committee will act as the nominating committee.

Other Business – Emily Armstrong from Congresswoman Hayes’s office shared information on April 22nd Passport Day for the surrounding 41 towns. Also, if any municipality is in need of letters of recommendation regarding upcoming grant opportunities, to please contact Rep. Johanna Hayes’s office.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

NHCOG staff