



MINUTES OF THE NHCOCG MEETING
July 13, 2023

Members or Representatives in Attendance:

Barkhamsted, Donald Stein (absent)	Burlington, Douglas Thompson
Canaan, Henry Todd	Colebrook, Christopher Johnston
Cornwall, Gordon Ridgway	Goshen, Todd Carusillo (remote)
Hartland, Magi Winslow (remote)	Harwinton, Michael Criss
Kent, Jean Speck (remote)	Litchfield, Denise Raap
Morris, Tom Weik	New Hartford, Dan Jerram (absent)
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 (remote)
Winchester, Josh Kelly (absent)	

Others in Attendance: CTDOT Commissioner, Garrett Eucalitto, Kevin Tedesco, Grayson Wright, and Executive Director of Rebuilding Together Litchfield County, Nancy Rebehn

NHCOCG Staff: Emily Hultquist, Kathryn Faraci, Sarah Better, and Leo Ghio

Call to Order - Chairman Todd called the meeting to order at 11:12 AM after obtaining a quorum.

Public Comment - none

Introduction of Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto - Comr. Eucalitto provided updates on various CTDOT programs and initiatives such as the Community Connectivity Program and the Transportation Rural Improvement Program. Open discussion involved topics such as storm damage and culvert concerns, roadway closure notifications, mapping and hydraulic analysis, pavement management schedules, electric vehicle charging stations, the local bridge program, the new Infrastructure Bill, roadside mowing issues and vegetation, the encroachment permit process, and MS4 drainage concerns.

Rebuilding Together - Residential Repair Services for Low Income Homeowners - Nancy Rebehn shared information on their charitable organization. Established in 2003. She mentioned the need for handmen to carry out services. They do use license contractors. The goal is to provide safe homes for elderly in place. Most of the current volunteers are located outside of the NHCOCG region.

Transportation Planning Update - Kathryn Faraci shared information on proposed 2025-2028 STIP amendments for West Chippens Hill Road, Burlington Reconstruction Project funded by the Rural Major

Minor Collector Program and another amendment for the rehabilitation of four bridges in Thomaston and Harwinton. Out of the four bridges, three are located in Harwinton: Route 8 NB over Route 222, Route 8 SB over Bogue Road, and Route 8 NB over Bogue Road. Motioned made to approve the STIP by Selectman Criss and second by Selectman LaCava. Motion passed unanimously.

Community and Economic Development Update – Emily Hultquist shared that we have begun the Public Engagement Process for the 5-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update. Last night we had a good meeting – a bit light on attendance – Our next meeting is scheduled for July 26th – please let your EDCs know and please consider attending yourselves. Also, we are in the application process for year 2 EDA funds, another 60,000 which the NWCT EDC has identified to create a regional marketing strategy for the Discover Litchfield Hills Brand and for completion of our CEDS update.

Municipal Forum

Colebrook – Selectman Johnston shared his discussion with MDC and the land conservancy regarding a ten-billion-gallon water supply and easements and voiced his concerns with speeding on route 8.

Litchfield – Selectwoman Raap mentioned that the Court House has been sold and will be turned into a boutique hotel. The town has received an EV grant for six car chargers located on municipal property. The 28 Russell Street project is being refurbished to its original façade prior to when it was closed. The town also has a WPA solar project that was recently approved.

Canaan – Selectman Todd shared that the town has received a grant to have all municipal buildings be solar. The town’s old Fire house is on the market and two new businesses are opening.

Kent – Selectwoman Speck shared that the town is implementing composting and unit-based pricing program through an HHRA grant.

Morris – Selectman Weik shared his concerns regarding equipment rentals and invoicing which will be addressed moving forward.

Selectman Todd voiced his concerned for areas in the region that is not being covered by fiber optic cable and requested that the first officials share this information within their municipality.

Selectwoman Speck mentioned the need for the COG to fund an energy spokesperson on behalf of the region.

Administrative Items

- a) **ACTION** - Approval of Meeting Minutes for June 8th, 2023 and the June 29th Special Meeting, Selectman Criss made the motion to approve and seconded by Selectman Johnston. Motion passed unanimously.
- b) **ACTION** – Approval of Financial Statement for May, Selectman Criss made the motion to approve and seconded by Selectman Johnston. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business – none

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm
Respectfully submitted,
NHCOC staff