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MINUTES OF THE NHCOG MEETING

October 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 (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: Grayson Wright, DOT, Kevin Pisacich, DEEP, John Field, DEHMS Region 5 Coordinator, Ellen Graham, Senator Richard Blumenthal Office

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

Public Comment – Ellen Graham, from Senator Richard Blumenthal’s office shared an update on the Senator’s involvement with the current Middle East Conflict and the upcoming budget.

Call to Order - Chairman Todd called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

Selectman Todd shared his sentiments regarding the recognition of honorable years of service for all the Chief Administrative Officers that will be leaving this fiscal year. Henry Todd, Falls Village (Canaan), Brent Colley, Sharon, Jean Speck, Kent, Chris Johnstone, Colebrook, and Winchester Town Manager, Josh Kelly.

Report of Executive Director – Robert Phillips shared information on the Regional Services Grant from OPM. Household Hazardous Waste Event will be held on October 28th in Harwinton. Next Policy Board meeting with be held in December.

Rural Health Network and Regional Opioid Response Fund – Leo Ghio, Health Network Director provided an update on the regional Opioid Response Fund the allocations that each of the 11 towns received in the NHCOG region. Purchases included treatment kits for EMS to address overdoses, harm reduction supplies, and establishing an early identification and prevention program for adolescents regarding mental health concerns.

Recognition of Emily Hultquist – Emily Hulquist provided an update on NHCOG’s EDD designation and an update on the Request for Proposal to hire an engagement consultant for the CEDS update. The Policy Board recognized her past year of service to the NHCOG region.

Welcome to EDAdvance and Activity and Program Update – Dr. Jeffrey C. Kitching, the Executive Director of EDAdvance provided an informational update on EDAdvance’s current and future initiatives. Additional information can be found on the YouTube link:

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

Municipal Forum – updates were provided by Selectman Riiska (Norfolk), Selectman Jerram (New Hartford), Selectman Johnston (Colebrook), Selectman Roy (Roxbury), Selectwoman Raap (Litchfield), Selectman Perrotti (North Canaan), Selectman Wiek (Morris), Town Manager, Josh Kelly, Selectman Stein (Barkhamsted), Selectman Todd (Canaan), and Selectwoman Speck (Kent). Additional information can be found on the YouTube link:

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

Administrative Items

1. **ACTION** - Approval of Meeting Minutes for September 14th, 2023, Selectman Riiska made the motion to approve and seconded by Selectman Perotti. Motion passed unanimously.
2. **ACTION** - Approval of Financial Statement, Selectman Weik made the motion to approve and seconded by Selectman Perotti. Motion passed unanimously.
3. **ACTION** - Approval of Memorandum of Understanding COG Collaboration on the 2023 Homeland Security Grant Program Award Selectman Weik made the motion to approve and was seconded by Selectman Roy. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business – none

The meeting adjourned at 11:56am

Respectfully submitted,

NHCOG staff