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MINUTES OF THE NHCOG MEETING

September 14, 2023

Members or Representatives in Attendance:

Barkhamsted, Donald Stein Burlington, Douglas Thompson

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 (remote) Salisbury, Curtis Rand

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

Warren, Greg LaCava (remote) Washington, Jim Brinton ( absent)

Winchester, Josh Kelly

Others in Attendance: Grayson Wright, DOT, Kevin Pisacich, DEEP, John Field, DEHMS Region 5 Coordinator

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

Call to Order - Chairman Todd called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

Public Comment – none

Report of Executive Director – Robert Phillips shared information on the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day – October 28th at the Torrington Water Pollution Control in Harwinton. NHCOG Policy and Procedures, as well as the NHCOG Bylaws, will be shared with the Executive Team within the next few weeks.

Update on the ARPA Capital Projects Fund – Connected Communities Grant Program and the IIJA Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BREAD) Program – Kevin Pisacich, Director of the Office of Telecommunications and, Broadband at DEEP, provided a presentation on an overview of state agencies’ roles in Broadband. Questions can be sent to DEEP.Broadbandct.gov. The full PowerPoint presentation can be found on YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-Kb7xGv8GA>

Updates from the Center for Housing Opportunity-Litchfield County – Jocelyn Ayer, Director provided an update on Litchfield County shared staffing and capacity building for housing non-profits. The full PowerPoint presentation can be found on YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-Kb7xGv8GA>

Transportation Planning Update – Kathryn Faraci shared information on proposed 2025-2028 STIP amendments for the replacement of Retaining Walls on Route 44 in Norfolk project 0097-0095 Norfolk Replacement of Retaining Walls on Route 44 and project 0174-0471 Replacement of Traffic Control Signals at Various Locations in District 4 of which Kent is a project location. Motioned was made to approve the STIP by Selectman Jerram and second by Selectman Carusillo. Motion passed unanimously. Kathryn provided an update on the Transportation Rural Improvement sharing that the DOT has not yet finalized the grant awards. They had trouble securing resources for engineering reviews and this process has taken longer than expected. They plan to have the applications submitted to the front office for approval in early/mid-October. DOT requested $10 million for FY2024 in the September bond commission for this program so, when awards are made for this fiscal year, funding will be in place. Robert Phillips provided an update on the recent Road Supervisor’s meeting, the Public Works Equipment Collaborative, and Morton Salt agreement. Sarah Better provided a brief overview of the new form for equipment rentals.

Community and Economic Development Update – General updates were given regarding the CEDS process and the fact that EDA is requiring a resolution on the management authority for the Partnership for Planning grants between NWCT EDC and NHCOG. Year – 2 funding depends on this formal designation. It is a lengthy process and it is underway. This update and other information can be found on the following video link -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-Kb7xGv8GA>

DEMHS Update – John Field shared that they just went through a PDA process and went to FEMA to see if they would qualify for assistance. However, they did meet the county threshold but, not meet the state threshold. DEHMS is not warehousing the COVID test kits. Hazard Mitigation Plan update is underway. The LEAOPs for the EMPGs are due January 1, 2024. Drill logs are due July 1, 2024. The Governor’s annual exercise for EPPI will be on October 14th and October 18th. Participation is only required for one day.

Municipal Forum

Winchester – Josh Kelly shared he will be leaving his role as Town Manager. The name of the future NHCOG meeting representative is Robert Kieger. The town is currently in the process of searching for a new Town Manager. The city is currently working with the local housing group in moving forward with lease to sale opportunities within an elementary school building in town.

Barkhamsted – Selectman Stein shared he will not be running for another term. The town received a grant from the Community Foundation to connect two state forests in town. They also will be looking into joining the purchasing council.

Litchfield – Selectwoman Rapp mentioned that they are working on creating a new regional school system and on the 250-year celebration in 2026. The courthouse project is moving forward and should be complete in approximately 15 months.

Morris – Selectman Weik shared that a paving project on East Shore Road will be conducted along Bantam Lake utilizing a STEEP grant. They completed a HVAC project in the firehouse using ARPA funding.

Norfolk – Selectman Riiska shared that the town is still working on the gas spill and flooding damage. He praised the emergency response teams for their assistance in a structure fire in town.

Salisbury – Selectman Rand shared that there will be 100 units of affordable housing constructed and bridge work will be conducted in the next several months.

North Canaan – Selectman Perrotti mentioned that he will not be running for another term. The town is installing a new EV charging station. The Community Health and Wellness will be up and running in January.

Burlington – Selectman Thompson shared that the town is looking to purchase a new fire pumper with ARPA funds.

Canaan – Selectman Todd mentioned that he will not be running for another term. The town has sold the old firehouse and will be reconstructing it for a gym and health center.

Goshen – Selectman Carusillo shared that he is running unopposed. They are currently working on the rollout of the Goshen Fair. The town has hired a blasting company for the creation of a new subdivision.

Colebrook – Selectman Johnson stated he will not be running for another term. Also, three bridge projects are in progress. Almost every dirt road has been washed out and efforts to address this are underway.

New Hartford – Selectman Jerram shared that the sale of the town’s water and sewer system and the town will use some of the proceeds for sewer installation. There are plans to consolidate two of three of the town’s fire departments. There will be 300 units of affordable housing constructed near the Canton town line. ARPA funds are being used to construct a pickle ball/basketball court.

Torrington – Mayor Carbone shared that the Bogue Road bridge installation is complete. Since this bridge installation is the first of its kind in Connecticut, the town will be conducting a press conference with O&G in the near future. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new animal control facility in town. The city received a BAR grant for the best reuse of property near Migeon Avenue. The Mayor is working on appointing a fair rent commission.

Kent – Selectwoman Speck shared that she will not be running for another term. She is currently in the process of succession planning. Phase II of the streetscape project is underway. Compost station was launched in July. A new playground, multi-generational basketball court and splash pad is proposed for construction. After approval from OSTA, speed limits will be lowered as traffic enters the center of town.

Cornwall – Selectman Ridgeway shared that the town is keeping the delivery room open in the Sharon Hospital and they just completed a composting application.

Administrative Items

1. **ACTION** - Approval of Meeting Minutes for July 13th, 2023. Regular Meeting and the August 23rd, 2023, Special Meeting, Selectman Stein made the motion to approve and seconded by Selectman Weik. Motion passed with one abstention.
2. **ACTION** - Approval of Financial Statement for June, Selectman Stein made the motion to approve and seconded by Selectman Weik. Motion passed unanimously.
3. **ACTION** - Approval of Endorsement of State OSWA Grant Applications. Selectman Weik made the motion to approve and was seconded by Selectman Perotti. Motion passed unanimously:

* Litchfield Land Trust for Preservation of 104.84 acres off Rt 202 on Fern Ave in Litchfield
* Warren Land Trust for Preservation of 36-acre parcel for additional property for the Wyantenock State Forest.
* Northwest CT Land Conservancy for Preservation of Middle Farm, 670 acres containing many critical natural resources including over 1 mile of Bantam River.
* Town of Salisbury for Preservation of 97 acres of forest and ridgeline overlooking Salisbury’s Twin Lakes.
* Town of Winchester for Preservation of 508 acres of scenic ridgeline and forest between Route 800 and East Wakefield Blvd.

1. **ACTION** - Approval of State Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Pilot 2023 Grant (USDOT) – Town of Winchester Main Street Corridor Study and Redesign: $320,00 grant request (with an $80,000 match for $400,000 project total) for a study and redesign of Winsted’s Main Street. Selectman Stein made the motion to approve and seconded by Selectwoman Rapp. Motion passed unanimously.
2. **ACTION** - Approval of State Brownfield Assessment-Only Round 18 – Town of Winchester Municipally-Owned Brownfield Assessment Funds (Amount TBD) to assess 189 Rowley Street (PW Garage) and 3 Meadow (Municipal Parking Lot). Selectman Stein made the motion to approve and seconded by Selectwoman Rapp. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business – none

The meeting adjourned at 12:11pm

Respectfully submitted,

NHCOG staff