



MINUTES OF THE NHCOCG MEETING

09.12.2024
remote

Member/Representative Attendance:

	Barkhamsted , Nick Lukiwsky	✓	Harwinton , Michael Criss	✓	Roxbury , Patrick Roy
	Burlington , Doug Thompson	✓	Kent , Marty Lindenmayer	✓	Salisbury , Curtis Rand
✓	Canaan , David Barger	✓	Litchfield , Denise Raap	✓	Sharon , Casey Flanagan
	Colebrook , Bradley Bremer	✓	Morris , Tom Weik	✓	Torrington , Elinor Carbone
✓	Cornwall , Gordon Ridgway	✓	New Hartford , Dan Jerram	✓	Warren , Greg LaCava
✓	Goshen , Todd Carusillo	✓	Norfolk , Matt Riiska	✓	Washington , Jim Brinton
	Hartland , Magi Winslow	✓	North Canaan , Brian Ohler	✓	Winchester , Paul Harrington, Todd Arcelaschi

Others in Attendance.

NHCOCG Staff: Kathryn Faraci, Leo Ghio, Rista Malanca, Rob Phillips, Jean Speck.

Guests: Brian Popovich, Chris Antonacci; Jonathan Costa, EdAdvance Executive Director; Jocelyn Ayer, Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity; Michelle Gorra, ECDC Washington; Riley Klein, Lakeville Journal; Ellen Graham, Sen. Blumenthal's office; Jen Pacacha, CONNDOT; Michael D'Elia, The Kennedy Collective; Brian Bartram, Sharon-Salisbury Transfer Station; Rebecca Auger, OPM; other unidentified attendees.

Call to Order and opportunity for public comment. Chair Dan Jerram called the meeting to order at 1003 and offered the opportunity for public comment.

MOTION by Mike Criss/Denise Raap to add Legislative Committee update from First Selectman Criss and a new item an update on the southwest regional water authority after the executive director's report. Passed unanimously.

Report of the Executive Director. Executive Director Rob Phillips provided information on ongoing work and initiatives from his written report and recap of salient items:

- Introduction of new EdAdvance Executive Director Jonathan Costa. Mr. Costa was introduced to the board and he gave some remarks including an upcoming meeting on September 17th at noon of the Special Education Task Force about getting a handle on capping or reducing special education costs. Your Board of Education chairs may be asking you to attend and he encourages attendance.
- PWEC. Have created a regular meeting schedule to meet with the road supervisors' group on a more regular basis. Has been visiting towns with assets that are part of the collaborative to review equipment to start planning for future replacement. Also exploring road condition software tools to manage road improvements.
- He and Kathryn Faraci attended a meeting with the DOT to discuss the next TRIPS funding solicitation and provided feedback.
- Restarted CEO one-on-one meetings in all towns.
- October 19th HHW Event at Torrington WPC, 252 Lower Bogue Rd, Harwinton
- Opened discussion on in-person meeting option for the balance of the regular meeting schedule for 2024. Dan Jerram suggested locations that promote regional

planning successes, and recommended October 10th meeting be held at [Norbrook Farm Brewery](#). There was strong consensus on the idea. Members also voiced interest in returning to hybrid (in-person at EdAdvance with a Zoom option) meetings.

- “Every Town Has A Story” Initiative was discussed as a new agenda item for future meetings.
- Announced a new Quarterly NHCOG Newsletter beginning in October to regularly share news, NHCOG initiatives and announcements.

Legislative Committee Update. Mike Criss is looking for 5-6 CEOs interested in sitting on the Legislative Committee for the 2025 Legislative session as soon as possible. Dan asked Rob to send out an email to past committee members to see if they want to serve again, and anyone else who wants to join the committee.

Southwest Regional Water Authority purchase of Aquarion. Dan Jerram filled in the members on the possible sale of Aquarion to the Southwest Regional Water Authority (SWRWA), noting that SWRWA is exempt from PURA regulatory oversight and thus would not have to get PURA approval for setting their rates. Currently 13 of the NHCOG towns are Aquarion customers. Discussed planning a meeting of the 13 towns to discuss.

Municipal Solid Waste/Regional Waste Authority Progress Update, Review of MSW Survey results. Rob Phillips gave an update on work to date; Dan provided further detailed update from the meeting with HERRA in July. Discussion regarding the transition timeline. Jean speck briefed membership on survey results.

Litchfield County Housing Affordability Summit and funding update. Jocelyn Ayer, Executive Director for the Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity presented an update on current initiatives and work of the organization, and announced **two upcoming events in Salisbury on Monday September 30th**:

- Ribbon cutting ceremony & open house at Sarum Village, 34 Cobble Road, 3p
- 2024 Litchfield County Housing Affordability Summit, 5p-7p at the Town Grove, 42 Ethan Allen Street (Lakeville for GPS)

REFERENCE RESOURCE: [presented slide deck](#)

NorthwestCT EDC Collaborative update. Rista Malanca provided an update on the Municipal Brownfield Grant Program, the PROMISE program, and a new municipal job training & awareness program.

- **Municipal Brownfield Grant Program: MOTION by Paul Harrington/Dave Barger endorse applications to the CT Municipal Brownfield Grant Program, assessment only, for Meadow Street in Winsted CT and Kent Road in Cornwall CT, as further described by Rista Malanca.** Approved unanimously.
- **PROMISE Program:** 16 main street assessments have been completed and Rista will be meeting with CT Main Street on next steps.
- **EDC Work Groups:** All groups have been meeting on their topics. The Workforce group is responding to feedback regarding the need to develop training programs to the region regarding municipal jobs.

FY25 RITS Budget Submission and STIP Amendments.

Kathryn Faraci gave an update on our submitted FY25 MGP application for \$146,988 to fund the three transportation providers (NWCT Transit District, Geer, Sullivan Center) to support continuous operations. She also shared that NHCOCG has received DOT approval for use of \$52,000 of our planning funds to conduct a transit analysis study, pending FTA approval. Gave a shout out to the towns of Canaan and Warren, as well as the Torrington Police Department, who all applied for and were awarded \$5,000 each in grant funding from the Active Transportation Micro Grant to provide safe biking and walking initiatives in their communities. Also clarified the draft CTDOT 2025-2028 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) was on the agenda to meet the public participation review requirement and no action was needed.

MOTION Jim Brinton/Dave Barger To endorse CTDOT STIP Amendment #13, which removes project titled "Transit District Facility Upgrades for Battery Electric Buses" from FY2025. Approved unanimously.

MOTION by Mike Criss/Jim Brinton Pursuant to CTDOT Public Involvement Policy, the 2025 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Projects List and Bridge Project Listing documents have been included in the meeting agenda package. Approved unanimously.

MOTION by Curtis Rand/Mike Criss To endorse CTDOT STIP Amendment #14(Project # 0174-0467) to add an advance construction phase in FY2025. Approved unanimously.

DEMHS update. Due to the recent flooding in Region 5, John Field was unable to attend to provide an update. Sarah Better provided information on the Region 5 ESFs.

Administrative Items.

MOTION by Mike Criss/ to approve the July 11th meeting minutes and June Monthly Financial Statement. Approved with abstention from Tom Weik.

MOTION by Mike Criss/Dan Jerram to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned @ 1146.

Respectfully submitted,

NHCOG staff