



# MINUTES OF THE NHCOCG MEETING

## 10.10.2024

### Norbrook Farm Brewery

#### Member/Representative Attendance:

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

#### **Others in Attendance.**

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

**Guests:** Alfredo Herrera, Ashley Benitez from OPM; other unidentified attendees.

1. Chair Dan Jerram called the meeting to order at 1007.
2. **Introduction of John and Randy Auclair from Norbrook Farm Brewery.** The chair introduced John and Randy Auclair from Norbrook Farm Brewery who provided a background of the property and their journey to where they are today, and a tour of the facility.
3. **Report of the Executive Director.** Rob Phillips presented highlights of his Executive Director’s report including:
  - a. Recent CT Trail Symposium
  - b. Upcoming HHW dropoff event on October 19th
  - c. Inaugural edition of quarterly newsletter, NHCOCG Compass
4. **Parcel and CAMA Improvement Grants from the State GIS Office.** Alfredo Hererra and Ashley Benitez from OPM GIS Office presented information on Parcel and CAMA Improvement Grants from the State GIS Office.  
**MOTION by Paul Harrington/Todd Carusillo: That the Northwest Hills Council Of Governments execute and deliver to the State of Connecticut a Notice of Grant Award (the “Agreement”) in the amount of \$231,000 for the Parcel and CAMA Improvement Grants.**  
 Approved unanimously.  
**MOTION by Tom Weik/Todd Carusillo: That Robert Phillips, as Executive Director of the Northwest Hills Council Of Governments, is directed to execute and deliver the Agreement on behalf of the Organization and to do all things necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of the Agreement, including executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by the Agreement.** Approved unanimously.
5. **2024 Annual salary survey collaboration between NHCOCG and CCM.** Rob Phillips briefed the Board on a collaboration between NHCOCG and CCM to utilize their robust survey tool and sunset the Excel spreadsheet the NHCOCG has asked towns to complete in previous years.

6. **Northwest CT EDC Collaborative update.** Rista Malanca provided information on a grant opportunity from EPA, Technical Grant: Recreation Economy for Rural Communities (RERC) <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/recreation-economy-rural-communities>  
**MOTION by Todd Carusillo/Gordon Ridgway to authorize NHCOC staff to submit a grant application to the RERC Program and demonstrate support from local community.**  
Approved unanimously.  
**MOTION by Denise Raap/Greg Lacava to submit a letter from the 21 towns in support of the NHCOC's Recreation Economy for Rural Communities Grant application.** Approved unanimously.
7. **Transportation Update.** Kathryn Faraci provided an update on Transportation planning,
  - a. STIP Amendment.  
**MOTION by Doug Thompson/Curtis Rand to approve project #0170-PROTECT22-23 funding of \$1.2 million for a Non-Coastal CT Resilience Improvement Plan.**  
Approved unanimously.
  - b. Transit Analysis Study Update - an update on the selection process for a consultant to conduct a transit study was provided and vendor Aecom was recommended.  
**MOTION by Tom Weik/Denise Raap for NHCOC staff to enter into negotiations with Aecom for a transit study.** Approved unanimously.
8. **DEMHS update.** John Field, DEMHS R5 Coordinator provided an update on FEMA public assistance activity in the region as a result of the flooding event last month, realtime use of Crisis track during the event and how it assisted in capturing damage assessment information, and an update on fiduciary responsibility of the Incident Management Team (IMT) moving from regions 1, 2 and 5 to all regions state-wide.
9. **Administrative Items.**
  - a. **MOTION by Dave Barger/Curtis Rand to approve the membership of the 2024 Legislative Committee of Mike Criss, Patrick Roy, Denise Raap, Todd Carusillo, Paul Harrington, and Bradley Bremer.** Approved unanimously.
  - b. **MOTION by Doug Thompson/Todd Carusillo to approve meeting minutes for September 12, 2024.** Approved unanimously.
  - c. **MOTION by Paul Harrington/Greg Lacava to approve the monthly financial statement for August.** Approved unanimously.
  - d. **MOTION by Curtis Rand/Denise Raap to endorse a letter of support for the City of Torrington's application to the USDOT Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program for a redesign of the Route 202 Columbus Square area.** Approved unanimously.

10. Meeting adjourned at 1159.

Respectfully submitted,

*NHCOC staff*

**Next meeting: Thursday November 14 at 10:00a, location TBA**