

## NOTICE OF REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

## **NHCOG HOLIDAY GATHERING and LUNCHEON**

LEAVE TODAY'S MEETING WITH:

A Success Story – The Abner Hotel – An Example of Historic Revitalization
 NHCOG Activity Updates

• Enjoy the Company of your Colleagues during the Holiday Season

DATE: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024 TIME: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM LOCATION: IN-PERSON ONLY - starting and ending at The Village Restaurant, Litchfield

## AGENDA

(Chairman Dan Jerram; Vice Chairman Mike Criss; Secretary Patrick Roy; Treasurer Tom Weik)

- 1. Call to order and opportunity for public comment, Dan Jerram, Chair 5 mins
- 2. Report of the Executive Director, Rob Phillips 15 mins
  - a. ED activity log November (To be Provided)
  - b. Public Works Equipment Collaborative (PWEC) Dec 4th Meeting Recap
  - **c.** Updates:
    - o MSW
      - o Annual Financial Audit
      - NHCOG website
      - Domain change to .gov
      - o Quarterly Newsletter
  - d. Upcoming Annual Legislative Breakfast Jan 6th at EdAdvance
- 3. Economic Development, Rista Malanca 5 mins
  - a. Update on the PROMISE program (Main St. Assessments)
  - b. Upcoming Economic Development Training Course
- 4. Transportation Planning, NHCOG Staff 5 mins
  - a. **ACTION** Recommended resolution for NHCOG to accept Recreational Trails Grant from the state of CT for Planning and Design for the Naugatuck River Greenway section in the Town of Harwinton (*Attachments A and B*)
- 5. DEMHS update, John Field, DEMHS R5 10 mins

- 6. Administrative Items 5 mins
  - a. **ACTION** Approval of Meeting Minutes for November 14, 2024 (*Attachment C*)
  - b. **ACTION** Approval of Monthly Financial Statement for October (*Attachment D*)
  - c. Correspondence Letter of support for Community Investment Fund Application for the American Mural Project to conduct community outreach in support of a capital expansion plan. (*Attachment E*)
  - d. Correspondence Letter of support for State OSWA Grant Application for the Town of Kent for the purchase of 62 acres known as the Lovig Property (*Attachment F*).
  - e. Correspondence Letter of support for State OSWA Grant Application for the Town of Sharon for the purchase of 104 acres known as Surdan Mountain (*Attachment G*).
- Take an historic tour of The Abner Hotel and hear about the successes and challenges of its revitalization, Carol Bramley, Litchfield PZC and Theresa Callaghan, GM of Salt Hotels – 45 mins
- 8. Holiday Luncheon at The Village Restaurant and meeting adjournment.

#### Next NHCOG Regular Monthly Meeting – Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 10AM \*\*\*A Hybrid In-person/Remote Meeting\*\*\*

#### ATTACHMENT A



December 12, 2024

Ms. Kimberly Bradley CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Bureau of Outdoor Recreation 79 Elm Street Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Transfer of the Town of Harwinton's Recreational Trail Grant award to the Northwest Hills Council of Governments (NHCOG) for planning and design of the Naugatuck River Greenway

Dear Ms. Bradley:

The Town of Harwinton was awarded \$250,000 through the 2023 CT DEEP Recreational Trails Grant Program. This grant will provide funding for trail planning and design that will extend the section of the Naugatuck River Greenway (NRG) recently built in Torrington.

The NRG is a planned 44-mile multi-use trail that will accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, and non-motorized wheelchair users. According to the recent Economic Impact Study done by the NRG Steering Committee and the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, it is estimated that with the anticipated completion date of 2031, the Litchfield/Harwinton section will provide the capacity of the trail to generate approximately 81,000 users annually. Due to the length, future economic impact and expected user rate, this will be a regionally significant trail that will provide both recreational opportunities and transportation alternatives for residents in northwest Connecticut.

The NHCOG and the Town of Harwinton both strongly agree that this project is critical for the development of the NRG and this segment will provide significant benefits to the region. Due to staffing constraints and budget limitations, that were not anticipated at the time of application, the Town of Harwinton has requested the NHCOG administer this grant application.

By utilizing staff time of both the Transportation Director and the Director of Community and Economic Development, the NHCOG would have the capacity to administer this grant. In turn, this staff time would act as the required match. The Town of Harwinton will continue to participate in this project and support the efforts of the NHCOG Staff. The NHCOG is prepared to provide the in-kind match of \$50,000 through NHCOG staff time, Town of Harwinton's staff time and local volunteer hours spent on this project.



Therefore, the NHCOG and the Town of Harwinton respectively request that the Town of Harwinton's grant for the Recreational Trails Program in the amount of \$250,000 be transferred to the Northwest Hills Council of Governments. The scope of work and budget will remain exactly as proposed.

Sincerely,

Robert Phillips NHCOG Executive Director

M.

Michael Criss Town of Harwinton, First Selectman

#### **ATTACHMENT B**



#### **CERTIFIED RESOLUTION**

I, Patrick Roy, Secretary of Northwest Hills Council of Governments, do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Northwest Hills Council of Government's Policy Board at its duly called and held meeting on December 12, 2024, at which a quorum was present and acting throughout, and that the resolution has not been modified, rescinded, or revoked and is at present in full force and effect:

**RESOLVED** that the Northwest Hills Council of Governments may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate for a grant of \$250,000 for the Harwinton NRG Greenway – Section 1; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, Robert Phillips as Executive Director is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Northwest Hills Council of Governments and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents.

The undersigned further certifies that Patrick Roy now holds the office of Secretary and that he has held that office since December 14, 2023.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: The undersigned has executed this certification on this 12th day of December 2024.

Patrick Roy NHCOG Secretary



## MINUTES OF THE NHCOG MEETING 11.14.2024

ATTACHMENT C

#### Member/Representative Attendance:

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

#### Others in Attendance.

**NHCOG Staff:** Rob Phillips, Rista Malanca, Kathryn Faraci, Leo Ghio and Sarah Better **Guests:** Joseph Ferraiolo, Dave St. Martin, Steve Crotty, and John Field

- 1. Chairman Dan Jerram called the meeting to order at 10:05am.
- 2. **<u>Report of the Executive Director.</u>** Rob Phillips presented highlights of his Executive Director's report including:
  - a. Debrief of Household Hazardous Waste Event
  - b. Discussion on centralized finance/grant management staffing need of NHCOG
  - c. Upcoming meetings for Public Works Equipment Collaborative Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> and Annual Legislative Breakfast
- 3. Fiber Build-Out, Municipal Partnership Opportunities and Regional Progress Frontier Communications - Joe Ferraiolo, Bella Langlois, Dave St. Martin, Steve Crotty provided a Power point presentation - high level overview of Frontier Fiber benefits; CEOs can reach out directly for more detailed info pertinent to their town. Specifically ask for CEOs to connect them to local Housing Authorities as they are currently focusing on MDU projects. Not looking for financial assistance from property owners that meet their financial threshold. Steve Crotty for constituent/service issues; Dave St. Martin for infrastructure issues. The easiest build is in greenfields.
  - Joseph Ferraiolo, joseph.ferraiolo@ftr.com, 203-215-8140
  - Dave St. Martin, david.w.stmartin@ftr.com, 860-280-1915
  - Steve Crotty, steven.crotty@ftr.com, 203-922-2476

Selectwoman Raap commented - currently working with Frontier but BOF is pushing back on cost, asking for advice on how to convince constituents to agree to fund the project. Litchfield does not qualify for the state/local connectivity grants, not considered a "distressed community". Chairman Dan Jerram asked about additional grant funding that Frontier has received or is pursuing - round 2 will be awarded in a few months. Selectman Lindenmeyer commented - received complaints from residents of Frontier employees knocking on doors w/o identification or materials to share and could not confirm their affiliation; Selectman Carusillo has received similar complaints. Frontier responded, it could be door to door sales or construction related but will get info to Town Halls to alert when door to door sales will be occurring.

- 4. **Transportation Update.** Kathryn Faraci provided an update on Transportation planning,
  - a. STIP Amendment.
    MOTION by Selectman Barger/Selectman Carusillo to approve project 0170-CF122-23 Install EV Chargers at Various Locations - approved unanimously.
  - b. MOTION by Selectman Rand/Selectman Criss to approve project 170-WCPP22-2 Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program Grant - approved unanimously.
  - c. MOTION by Selectman Criss/Selectman Carusillo to authorize NHCOG to enter contract with Aecom Technical Services, Inc. to conduct NHCOG Transit Analysis Study - study will be funded using \$52,000 of federal FTA and CTDOT Unified Planning Work Program transit planning funds
- 5. **DEMHS update**. Sarah Better provided an update on all active open grants, as well as balances, performance periods and crisis track training/registration. John Fields, DEMHS R5 stated that Connecticut received public assistance disaster declaration for flooding in August. Roxbury may be the only eligible town in the NHCOG region. Applications for assistance will be open for municipalities and individuals affected by the flooding.

#### 6. Administrative Items.

a. **ACTION** - Approval of Financial Auditing Services for NHCOG for 3-year term with option of two additional annual extensions - Motion to Authorize Executive Director to enter into contract with recommended selection by the Executive Committee at their November 12, 2024 meeting - Two RFPs received, Clermont Associates was the recommendation of the Executive Committee; proposal included in meeting package; **Denise Raap motion to approve, Tom Weik second - approved unanimously.** 

b. **ACTION** - Approval of NHCOG Revised Bylaws as recommended by the Executive Committee at their November 12, 2024 meeting (Attachment to be provided) - Rob reviewed changes; Mike Criss asked if bylaws will be reviewed annually; Dan J responded they will be reviewed by the Bylaw Committee annually. **Mike Criss motioned to approve, Dave Barger second - approved unanimously.** 

c. **ACTION** - Approval of Meeting Minutes for October 10, 2024 - **Doug Thompson motioned to approve, Curtis Rand second - approved unanimously.** 

d. ACTION - Approval of Monthly Financial Statement for September - Mike Criss motion, Curtis Rand second; Rob mentioned Salisbury may have overpaid dues approved unanimously

e. **ACTION** - Approval of the 2025 NHCOG Meeting Schedule - Tom Weik requested hybrid option for winter meetings instead of fully remote - Dan polled the membership: 7 said they would go in person; how many are agreeable to hybrid: 9 ii. **Mike Criss amended motion for hybrid option, Greg LaCava second - approved unanimously.**  f. **Correspondence** - Letter of support for State OSWA Grant Application for the Town of Salisbury for the Preservation of 221 acres on Miles Mountain - **Mike Criss motion**, **Denise Raap second - approved unanimously.** 

g. Motion to modify the agenda - add Correspondence from Warren for Letter of Support for OSWA Sacket Preserve, fully supported by Warren BOS Mike Criss, motion to modify, Dave Barger second - approved unanimously. Mike Criss motion to authorize LOS, Tom Weik second - approved unanimously.

#### 7. Executive Session to discuss MSW/RWA contract negotiations.

MOTION by Carusillo, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Harrington, to enter into Executive Session at 11:32AM with NHCOG staff, Salisbury Selectmen Member Katherine Keifer, and all board members were invited - approved unanimously.

The Executive Session ended at 11:58AM with no subsequent motions or decisions.

8. **Adjournment.** The Regular Meeting adjourned at 11:59AM.

Respectfully submitted,

NHCOG staff

Next meeting: December 12, 2024 location TBA

### ATTACHMENT D

# Northwest Hills Council of Governments Budget vs. Actuals: Budget\_FY25\_P&L - FY25 P&L July - October, 2024

		Total			
	Actual	Budget	over Budget	% of Budget	
Income					
40000 Operating Income			-		
40100 RSG - Regional Service Grant	488,098	488,098	(0)	100.00%	
40200 ConnDOT-UPWP		413,189	(413,189)	0.00%	
40300 HRSA	95,514	300,000	(204,486)	31.84%	
40400 EDA-Partnership Planning	17,500	60,000	(42,500)	29.17%	
40500 DEMHS Administrative Revenues	-	90,500	(90,500)	0.00%	
40600 Other Administrative Revenues	5,000	19,470	(14,470)	25.68%	
40700 Municipal Dues	89,818	89,818	0	100.00%	
40000 Operating Income	695,930	1,461,075	(765,145)	47.63%	
40900 Interest Income	4,692	7,000	(2,308)	67.03%	
40950 Miscellaneous Income	1,292	34,181	(32,889)	3.78%	
Total Income	701,914	1,502,256	(800,342)	46.72%	
Expenses					
61000 Salaries	202,660	607,980	(405,320)	33.33%	
61100 Employee Benefits	44,446	154,744	(110,298)	28.72%	
61200 Payroll Expenses	15,503	49,579	(34,076)	31.27%	
62100 Audit & Financial Services	6,018	39,350	(33,333)	15.29%	
62110 Paychex Payroll	752	1,250	(498)	60.18%	
62120 Dues, Subscriptions, Publicatio	2,935	21,305	(18,370)	13.78%	
62130 Bank Service Charges	65	200	(135)	32.50%	
62150 Human Resources	400	10,000	(9,600)	4.00%	
62200 Insurance Expense	17,459	18,100	(641)	96.46%	
62400 Equip Purchase/Repairs/Maint	232	1,000	(768)	23.16%	
62500 Office Supplies	756	4,000	(3,244)	18.89%	
62600 Postage and Delivery	182	500	(318)	36.40%	
62700 Printing and Reproduction	133		133		
62800 Travel & Conference Expense	5,186	20,002	(14,816)	25.93%	
62900 Miscellaneous Expense	214	4,510	(4,296)	4.75%	
63000 Facilities	11,928	35,065	(23,137)	34.02%	
64000 Contingency		15,000	(15,000)	0.00%	
70000 Programs & Projects - Operating	56,539	519,671	(463,132)	10.88%	
Total Expenses	365,407	1,502,256	(1,136,849)	24.32%	
Net Operating Income	336,507	-	336,507		
Other Income					
80000 Program Revenues			-		
80200 CONN DOT	52,304	1,472,836	(1,420,532)	3.55%	
80500 DEHMS Grants	50,191	1,130,935	(1,080,744)	4.44%	

80600 Other Grants	61,221	171,625	(110,404)	35.67%
80800 Other Services	6,323	150,000	(143,677)	4.22%
Total Other Income	170,039	2,925,396	(2,755,357)	5.81%
Other Expenses				
90000 Program Expenditures			-	
90200 Conn DOT	52,304	1,472,836	(1,420,532)	3.55%
90500 DEMHS	50,191	1,130,935	(1,080,744)	4.44%
90600 Other Grant Expenditures	29,801	171,625	(141,824)	17.36%
90800 Other Expenditures	2,732	150,000	(147,268)	1.82%
Total Other Expenses	135,028	2,925,396	(2,790,368)	4.62%
Net Other Income	35,011	-	35,011	
Net Income	371,519	-	371,519	

\$ 1,264,638

### 10/31/2024 ACCOUNT BALANCES

Certificate of Deposit #1-6996	\$	48,760
Certificate of Deposit #2-2036	\$	49,137
Certificate of Deposit #3-0783	\$	61,404
Certificate of Deposit NWCB	\$	220,456
STIF - NHCOG General Fund	\$	298,550
TSB Checking	\$	586,331
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 1	,264,638

#### **Statement of Cash Flows**

Cash at end of period

OPERATING ACTIVITIES Net Income Adjustments to reconcile Net Income to Net Cash provided by operations:	\$ 371,519
Net change in accounts receivable	\$ 111,912
Net change in accounts payable	\$ (321,056)
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	<b>\$ 162,375</b>
Cash at beginning of period	\$ 1,102,263

#### ATTACHMENT E



November 27, 2024

Community Investment Fund Board Department of Economic and Community Development 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 5 Hartford, CT 06103

#### Re: Commitment of Support for American Mural Project's CIF 2030 Round 6 application

To Whom It Concerns,

Northwest Hills Council of Governments (NHCOG) fully and enthusiastically supports American Mural Project's (AMP) Round 6 application to the Community Investment Fund which will allow them to conduct robust community-wide outreach to ensure they are connecting with diverse and underserved stakeholders to gather essential data so that their capital expansion plan truly addresses the needs of Winchester's and the Region's diverse community.

By supporting this valuable component in AMP's planning process for the realization of its expansion, AMP will be positioned to offer an increasing number of enriching art-based educational programs for our youth, and thought provoking and inspiring experiences for adults.

Through inclusive events that celebrate our shared humanity and showcase the "power of work" and working together AMP, will continue to foster deeper connections within our diverse community and, at the same time, become a destination that will attract visitors to the region. Additionally, this work will revitalize, restore and expand an historical 5.27-acre mill property and ignite a transformative spark within the local community

It's worth noting that AMPs mission, and specifically the initiative proposed in this application, aligns with the Northwest CT Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) adopted in March of 2024. <u>https://northwesthillscog.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/NHCOG-CEDS-</u> Report\_FINAL.pdf

The CEDS identified the need to Increase Tourism in the Region" and "Strengthen the Creative Economy" as a top priority. Specifically, the strategy includes:

## Preserve and expand access to the arts. Preserve the availability of affordable arts programming through community investment and resource sharing. Facilitate large scale collaborative programming initiatives.

AMP is already a community advocate and leader. They offer their space for community events, fundraisers and to smaller non-profits (such as the Local Boy Scout Troop, the local school, and various town commissions) for meetings and activities. They provide meaningful engagement with the youth in the community through their monthly Teen Art Studio, summer camp programs, and outreach into the public schools. Furthermore, AMP leverages their success in advertising by promoting local businesses to their network832.followstsemRbed.citchfighg@cisitentictto @x7fl@re the region andevi880cfbe9884sinesses.



AMP's commitment to providing affordable arts programming for the community and expanding their partnerships with local businesses and other non-profit organizations to provide programing initiatives that have a positive impact is evident. Their commitment to the community engagement element of their planning process is also illustrated, through the relationships in various community sectors they are already building.

We ask that you support this application so that AMP can develop a community-driven, thoughtful approach to develop a property/destination, specific programming and partnerships that will be most beneficial for the community and the region.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Phillips, AICP Executive Director

#### ATTACHMENT F



November 20, 2024

Katie Dykes, Commissioner Department of Energy & Environmental Protection 79 Elm Street Hartford CT, 06106

Re: Kent Land Trust - Open Space and Watershed Land Application 2024 - Lovig Property

Dear Commissioner Dykes,

On behalf of the Northwest Hills Council of Governments I am pleased to convey within this letter my strong support for the application by the Kent Land Trust for an Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) grant from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in connection with its intended purchase of 62<sup>±</sup> acres on Camps Flat Road in Kent (the "Lovig Property").

The Kent Land Trust has a long history of successful land protection including four prior properties acquired with the support of an OSWA grant. This latest planned purchase of the Lovig Property will provide meaningful added public benefit to the community of Kent and broader public in multiple and interrelated ways, including:

- Creation of a new, beautiful and interesting public place to enjoy nature and outdoor recreation, providing diverse experiences for multiple types of users including those needing physical accommodation.
- Providing connection opportunities with existing trails to broaden outdoor recreation opportunities in the region,
- Leveraging public resources by incorporating collaboration among local nonprofit organizations,
- Protecting sensitive wildlife habitat and critical native ecosystems,
- Providing opportunity for habitat and ecosystem restoration and beneficial land management,
- Adding to an existing complex and corridor of conservation land, thereby providing for climate resilience through forest landscape connectivity, sustained biodiversity, and relief from extreme weather events.

These benefits further the goals and objectives set forth in the Northwest Hills Council of Governments' most recent Plan of Conservation and Development, which prioritize (1) attracting young people to our



region in part through the provision of recreational opportunities, and (2) protecting water quality and natural resources.

The POCD specifically recommends the COG's support of local land trusts in their efforts to conserve forest habitat, and we sincerely hope to accomplish this through this endorsement of the Kent Land Trust's application. Thank you for your consideration of their application, we look forward to hearing of your determination.

Sincerely, 1,2

Robert Phillips, AICP Executive Director Northwest Hills Council of Governments

#### ATTACHMENT G



November 20, 2024

Katie Dykes, Commissioner Department of Energy & Environmental Protection 79 Elm Street Hartford CT, 06106

Dear Commissioner Dykes,

I write to you today to enthusiastically support Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy's application for an Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition grant from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. The application is to protect 104± acres on Surdan Mountain Road in Sharon, CT, permanently.

The Surdan Mountain property is an outstanding opportunity for the state to realize its conservation objectives by protecting local and regional landscape connectivity. The property's conservation values include:

- The most spectacular remaining view in Northwest Connecticut to be open to the public to enjoy for generations.
- Creation of a premier, new public nature preserve with opportunities for hiking, running, birdwatching, snowshoeing, and more.
- Within one (1) mile there are more than 1000± acres of permanently conserved lands. Adjacent and nearby already protected lands (Sharon Audubon, NCLC, Federal Appalachian Trail, CT DEEP).
- Direct access to the Appalachian Trail
- Contains 82.95± acres of core forest. Part of a 2,900± acre core forest area.
- 91.6± acres of critical habitat for interior forest species of birds and animals and opportunities for open meadow habitat.
- $91.4\pm$  acres of climate resilient land.
- Adjacent to an NDDB area. Potential habitat for rare, threatened, and endangered species.

The Northwest Hills Council of Government's POCD contains a key goal of protecting the region's water quality, forestland and other natural resources through supporting local land trusts in their efforts to protect sizeable areas of land that contain diverse wildlife habitats amongst other critical natural



features. In addition, expansion of passive recreation opportunities allows for the public to enjoy these protected resources in a visceral way. Therefore, we highly recommend the NCLC's application for funding under the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Open Space Watershed Land Acquisition Program.

Sincerely,

Robert'Phillips, AICP Executive Director Northwest Hills Council of Governments