

**RECEIVED**

By Darlene Brady at 11:09 am, Jul 12, 2022



## NOTICE OF HYBRID MONTHLY MEETING

**DATE:** Thursday, July 14, 2022

**TIME:** 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

**LOCATION:** **NHCOG OFFICE – 59 Torrington Road, Suite A-1, Goshen CT**

**Optional Remote Meeting Participation Link (Zoom):**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85639019330?pwd=NG1wbjZVcEtlYVg4eG9DWUhhYRVVjdz09>

Meeting ID: 856 3901 9330

Passcode: 609110

Call in Option 1-646-558-8656

## AGENDA

*(Chairman Henry Todd; Vice Chairman Mike Criss; Secretary Charlie Perotti; Treasurer Tom Weik)*

- 10:00 AM Determination of Quorum, Call to Order, and Opportunity for Public Comment. **Henry Todd, Chairman.**
- 10:05 AM Acknowledgment of Don Stein as past Chairman
- 10:10 AM Report of the Executive Director, **Rob Phillips, NHCOC**
- Update on NHCOC Office Expansion / Staffing Responsibilities
- 10:15 AM Introduction of **Daniel Davis, Community Relations Specialist for CT Eversource**
- 10:25 AM Proposed CTDOT Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIP) Overview, **Kathryn Faraci, NHCOC**
- 10:40 AM Update on Broadband Regional Initiative, **Emily Hultquist, NHCOC**
- 10:45 AM DEMHS Update, **John Field, DEMHS Region 5 Coordinator**
- 10:55 AM **Municipal Forum:** Information Sharing Round Table
- 11:25 AM Request for Letters of Support for Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) Applications
- 11:30 AM Administrative Items:
- a) Approval of Special Meeting Minutes for June 9, 2022 *(Attached)*
  - b) Approval of Financial Statement for May *(to be provided)*
- 11:35 AM **Executive Session – For the Purposes of Pending Legal Concern to the Region**
- 12:00 PM Other Business as Raised by Members and Adjournment.

**\*\*OPTIONAL LUNCH FOR MEMBERS TO FOLLOW\*\***



MINUTES OF THE NHCOCG MEETING  
June 9, 2022 - held hybrid via ZOOM

Members or Representatives in Attendance:

Barkhamsted, Donald Stein	Burlington, Douglas Thompson (absent)
Canaan, Henry Todd	Colebrook, Christopher Johnstone
Cornwall, Gordon Ridgway (remote)	Goshen, Todd Carusillo
Hartland, Magi Winslow (remote)	Harwinton, Michael Criss (absent)
Kent, Jean Speck (remote)	Litchfield, Denise Raap
Morris, Tom Weik	New Hartford, Dan Jerram
Norfolk, Matt Riiska	North Canaan, Charlie Perotti
Roxbury, Patrick Roy (remote)	Salisbury, Curtis Rand (remote)
Sharon, Brent Colley (absent)	Torrington, Elinor Carbone
Warren, Greg LaCava	Washington, Jim Brinton (absent)
Winchester, Josh Kelly (remote)	

Others in Attendance: Kelly Ryder, from CHFA, Leonardo Ghio, the Rural Healthcare Resource Coordinator, and John Field, DEMHS Region 5 Coordinator and Maria Horn.

NHCOCG Staff: Rob Phillips, Emily Hultquist, Kathryn Faraci, and Sarah Better

Call to Order and Opportunity for Public Comment. Chairman Stein called the meeting to order at 10:05AM. There was no public comment.

Report of the Executive Director – Mr. Phillips introduced Serena Levingston, from Wesleyan University, who is the NHCOCG SustainableCT Summer Intern. Mr. Phillips encouraged all municipalities to endorse their Hazardous Mitigation Plan and submit their local approval for FEMA to approve the final plan for our region. He also asked if there was any interest in the COG hosting an annual golf outing which has historically been held at Stonybrook Golf in Litchfield. Mr. Phillips also provided an overview of the “County Equivalency for CT COGs” and what does it mean for the Northwest Hills COG. An informational memo will be shared with all board members after the meeting.

My Home CT Program – Kelly Ryder, the Senior Program Office of Special Programs at the CT Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) provided a presentation on the overview of the American Rescue Plan and the My Home CT program and application process. Additional information can be found on their website: [www.chfa.org/MyHomeCT](http://www.chfa.org/MyHomeCT).

Progress Update on Regional Health Services Coordination – Leonardo Ghio, the Rural Healthcare Resource

Coordinator provided an update on the RITS program and requested a point of contact for homelessness intervention, mental health and substance abuse disorders. He also mentioned how the UCONN Community Health and Wellness is reaching out to the local farmer workers native and non-native outreach to provide health services in a newly established program located in Warren. Torrington is looking to identify gaps through a study using ARPA funds.

Update on Broadband Regional Initiative – Don Stein provided the announcement that a Broadband Forum will be held on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and encouraged all to attend. Meetings have been held to see what the best approach is in bringing Broadband to the region. Don also provided an update of the current status of this initiative. Emily stated that the forum will be held from 10am to 12 noon. Selectman Todd mentioned how important the development of this is to the economic development of the region.

DEMHS Update – John Field, DEMHS Region 5 Coordinator, provided an update on the EPI training. He mentioned that the School Security Working Group was able to get together and review local region 5 plans and is currently working on the drill logs and have the SROs share lesson learned. Homeland Security Grant funds will become available soon. The new State Emergency Management Director conducted a meet and greet with the region. Training will be provided for the proper protocol for debris management and will be combined with DEEP. Continue to work with New York and Massachusetts OEM and mutual aid issues and what agreements can be made.

Municipal Forum – Information sharing round table

Barkhamsted – 501c3 Housing Trust that was able to obtain a CBDG grant and is currently putting together a design bid for as many as 30 housing units which will be the first affordable housing in the town. The Town will be conducting a local business meet and greet to discuss any concerns. The town will be looking to attend a meeting regarding a proposed strategy for solid waste removal as per email from the DEEP Commissioner.

Canaan Falls Village – No mill increase, the budget passed, and the town is looking to selling their old firehouse. The town is currently in the 4<sup>th</sup> stage of the CDBG process on affordable housing. If the grant becomes available, the town will do site clearing which will allow construction to start.

Colebrook – The town is midway through their development of their affordable housing plan. Three bridge projects are scheduled for construction. In the process of getting the final STEAP grant payment for a current pavement project. The Selectman is looking for an emergency response plan for cyber-attacks.

Cornwall – A new restaurant has recently opened in town. Currently going through a voting process for a micro sewer plant.

Goshen – Camp is opening soon, and the town currently does not have a Rec Director. The mill rate went down to 19.8% (correction in last months meeting minutes). School vote is on the table to merge with Litchfield. The Fire Department is looking to secure a new fire truck contract. The town is working to obtain electric chargers for the Town Hall. Looking into obtaining electronic signage in front of the Town Hall and the bear population in Goshen continues to be an issue.

Hartland – Currently working on trying to close the bridge and roof projects with the State. The town passed their budget with no mill rate increase.

Kent – Passed budget with a flat mill rate. Streetscape project phase 1 has been awarded. Challenges are the materials. The Washington, Warren, Kent and Roxbury belong to a consortium for our ALS intercept program. Recently attended a meeting that discussed the concerns of New Milford not being able to service

the area. There is a need for stronger healthcare systems in the part of CT. The local Indian tribe has applied for federal recognition.

Litchfield – Referendum is coming up June 28<sup>th</sup> for the potential merger with Region 6 with Litchfield. The old courthouse has been approved as a hotel. \$10 million has been invested in this project. Town did submit a CDBG grant for affordable housing grant for \$1 million. Recently hired a full-time Fire Marshall. Replacing two retired constables with a resident trooper. The budget did pass with a .8 mill rate reduction.

Morris – Town passed their budget. Reduced mill rate due to Region 6 population. Approved the ARPA spending package to purchase a fire truck. Part of the ARPA will also be going to purchase affordable housing. Will be meeting with the DOT regarding the town center safety issues within the intersection Route 109 and Route 61. Commissioner Boynton will also be meeting with the Town to discuss these improvements. Route 109 near the Washington line will be closed for 14 days for a culvert replacement.

New Hartford – Budget is passed. 3/10<sup>th</sup> reduction in mill rate. ARPA funds will be used for fulfilling local requests. Last stages in completing the sale of the utilities to aquarium. They are the first town to sell a sewer system. All the proceeds will be reinvested into the community by protecting the water. Town also hired a new Park and Rec Director.

Norfolk – Currently have two bridge projects (one State and one Federal) going on and a water main project. Received final approval for the CDBG grant for haystack woods affordable housing development. Site development will be beginning soon. Working on a Plaza project in the center of town. Friday nights on the green will begin this upcoming Friday. Receiving a letter of recommendation to move forward on a solar project on the local land fill.

North Canaan – Passed the Town budget. Mill rate went up to 31. ARPA money will be discussed at Committee meeting next Tuesday. Town is putting in new sidewalks. Project in center of town will be completed by August 1<sup>st</sup> according to the DOT. Rail tracks have been completed. Hired a new social worker. Town hired a Fire Marshall and a Deputy Fire Marshall. A carnival will be held July 16<sup>th</sup>. Next week their will be community events starting for the summer.

Roxbury – Budget passed, and mill rate is 15.25. Approved purchase of some town land yet to be designated. Installed some speed bumps and currently starting construction for two bridges and a paving project. Medic 4 with Trinity is an issue.

Torrington – Closing in on proposing regulations for cannabis retail and cultivation. Planning and zoning are taking this up for review. Looking at creating a new Communication Alert system goal to reach all people within the Torrington community. Torrington was recognized by CIDIS for best practices in economic development and land use planning. Looking into CIF funding for acquisition of property. Moving the skate park and food truck ordinance has been a concern within the community.

Warren – Need help regarding Medic 4 within Warren. This cannot fall apart within the seven towns. Budget passed with no mill increase. Currently in the process of finalizing ARPA funds. Fire Department is looking to replace their ambulance in 2024. Looking to bringing EV stations into the town. Continue to look at site areas for affordable housing. The town is currently working with Washington and Kent on Lake Waramaug concerns Lake it Slow Campaign. Working closed with DOT on this issue.

Winchester – Three new businesses are opening. The town has \$27.4 million bond that will predominately be used for roadway improvement and a new ladder truck. Town approved a flat mill rate budget. Currently seeking a building official and a town planner.

Committee Activity/Updates – Election of NHCOC Officers and Executive Committee for FY 2022-2023 presented by Jean Speck, Chairwoman, Nominating Committee. The FY 2022-2023 Officers are Chairman: Henry Todd, Vice Chairman: Michael Criss, Secretary: Charlie Perotti and Treasurer: Thomas Weik. Motion made by Jean Speak and seconded by Elinor Carbone

Administrative Items

- a) ACTION – Approval of eight amendments to the 2021 STIP for new projects including a bridge replacement over Route 263 in Winchester, Bridge Painting/Metalizing in Harwington, Colebrook, Litchfield, and minor rehab bridge work over rail line on Route 8 southbound in Litchfield. Henry Todd moved to approve the STIP amendments and seconded by Matt Riiska. Motion passed unanimously.
- b) ACTION – Approval of the NHCOC Budget for FY 2022-2023. Thomas Weik moved to approve the NHCOC budget and seconded by Daniel Jerram. Motion passed unanimously.
- c) ACTION – Endorsement of FY 2022-2023 “Work Plan Summary and Budget” for the Regional Services Grant. Henry Todd moved to approve this endorsement and seconded by Daniel Jerram. Motion passed unanimously.
- d) ACTION - Approval of Minutes from May 12, 2022, Thomas Weik moved to approve the minutes Charles Perotti second the motion. The motion passed unanimously with inclusion of corrections.
- e) ACTION – Approval of Financial Statement for March and April. Henry Todd moved to approve the Financial Statement and was seconded by Thomas Weik. The motion passed unanimously.
- f) ACTION - Approval of the authorizing resolution to continue serving as applicant for EMPG funding in support of the Region 5 Haz-Mat Team. Matt Riiska moved to approve this resolution and was second by Charles Perotti. The motion passed unanimously.
- g) ACTION – Approval of the resolution for the COG Policy Board to provide \$15,000 match toward the upcoming EDA Grant. Daniel Jerram moved to approve this resolution and seconded by Henry Todd. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

NHCOC staff