



Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments

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Regional Planning Committee

LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Monday, August 26, 2019 - 7:00 pm

Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments conference room

145 Dennison Road, Essex

Members:

Chester: Vacancy
Clinton: Alan Kravitz
Eric Bergman *
Cromwell: Chris Cambareri
Anthony LaCava
Deep River: Bruce Edgerton *
Tony Bolduc *
Durham: Frank DeFelice
Joe Pasquale
East Haddam: Crary Brownell
Lou Salicrup
East Hampton: Michael Kowalczyk *
Essex: Sandra Childress *
Haddam: Raul deBrigard
Stasia DeMichele
Killingworth: Stephanie Warren *
Alec Martin *
Lyme: Mary Stone *
Middlefield: Kevin Boyle
Erine Wilson
Middletown: Beth Emery *
Stephen Devoto
Old Lyme: Harold Thompson
Old Saybrook: Kenneth Soudan
Karen Jo Marcolini *
Portland: Elwin Guild *
Westbrook: Bill Neale
Marie Farrell *

*Members Present

Staff Present:

Sam Gold
Torrance Downes
Eliza LoPresti

Guests: None

RiverRPC

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Secretary Bruce Edgerton at 7:02 pm.

2. Roll Call

Roll was called

3. Seating of Alternates

The following alternates were seated: Eric Bergman of Clinton, Karen Jo Marcolini of Old Saybrook, and Marie Farrell of Westbrook.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Stone moved to adopt the agenda with a second by Ms. Emery; voted unanimously in favor.

5. Public Comments

None

6. Approval of Minutes of Past Meetings

Mr. Guild moved to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2019 meeting; second by Ms. Emery. Vote was unanimous in favor with Ms. Marcolini and Mr. Edgerton abstaining.

7. Update on Consultant RFP for Regional PoCD

The RFP closes on Tuesday, Sept. 3. We are still waiting on approval of our work plan from the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) for FY20 funding; that should be forthcoming. The funds to hire the consultant will be in that work plan once approved.

Mr. Gold also noted that he will be looking to hire a Regional Planner; a job posting will be placed in September.

8. Referrals

East Hampton: Application for zone change from R-2 to commercial

This referral is for a regulation affecting a property along the river, and along the Portland line. The property is zoned as residential. This application asks for a zone change to commercial, which would allow a special permit to codify what the property has been used for in the past (note: the special permit is not part of this petition). A long time ago this parcel was zoned commercial, and they are asking for a re-zoning to that designation.

The property is going to be used (and has been used in the recent past) as an assembly hall. Concerns were discussed such as noise carrying across the river and up into residential areas, and light pollution. It was recommended that due to these concerns, the P&Z should consider regulations for standards that impact residents. There are currently none.

There was discussion on possible intermunicipal impacts, particularly to the Maromas section of Middletown across the river. This impact may not be “significant” but should be noted. The letter that Mr. Downes will compose should mention the concerns for residents and also those enjoying active recreation on conservation land in Middletown, and that consideration should be given to regulations for music, light, and cut-off time as conditions of a special permit. It was generally agreed that there are not significant adverse impacts created, but the discussed items will be pointed out in the letter from the RPC.

Ms. Emery moved to go forward with the letter as discussed (incorporating the comments from the paragraph above). This was seconded by Ms. Stone and voted unanimously in favor.

9. Miscellaneous: State, Regional and /or Local Planning Issues

Mr. Gold discussed the letter that OPM sent to the U.S. Census Bureau asking for statistical county equivalency for COGs. This does not establish COGs as counties or change state statute, but it will give municipalities another vehicle to apply for federal discretionary funds from additional programs, and create more accurate and useful census information.

Mr. Gold stated that the Capitol Region COG received a state grant to advance public health and is actively looking for a project to fund. Therefore, funding may become available for public outreach for the bike/ped plan. There will be a meeting with CROG and the bike/ped committee in the near future.

Mr. Gold also reported that the Route 81 study (Clinton) is at the final presentation phase. The Route 66 (East Hampton/Portland) study is moving forward in the public involvement phase.

10. Adjourn

At 8:21 P.M., Mr. Guild moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Bolduc seconded. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eliza LoPresti