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Chester, Clinton, Cromwell,
Deep River, Durham, East Haddam,
East Hampton, Essex, Haddam,
Killingworth, Lyme, Middlefield,
Middletown, Old Lyme,
Old Saybrook, Portland, Westbrook

**LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Monday, April 23, 2018 - 7:00 pm

Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments conference room
145 Dennison Road, Essex

Members:

Chester: Vacancy
Clinton: Alan Kravitz*
Jack Scherban
Cromwell: Alice Kelly
Chris Cambareri* seated
Enzo Faienza
Deep River: Bruce Edgerton*
Tony Bolduc*
Durham: Frank DeFelice*
Joe Pasquale
East Haddam: Crary Brownell
Lou Salicrup
East Hampton: Meg Wright
Michael Kowalczyk
Essex: Alan Kerr*
Sandra Childress*
Haddam: Stasia DeMichele
Raul deBrigard*
Killingworth: Stephanie Warren* seated
Alec Martin
Lyme: Mary Stone*
Middlefield: Robert Johnson
Erin Howard
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:

Torrance Downes
Janice Ehle/Meyer

1. Call to Order / Roll Call / Seating of Alternates

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Frank DeFelice at 7:00 pm. Members introduced themselves around the room. Stephanie Warren from Killingworth was seated for Alec Martin and Chris Cambareri from Cromwell was seated for Alice Kelly.

2. Amendments to Agenda / Approval of Agenda

Alan Kerr made a motion to approve the agenda. Alan Kravitz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimous.

3. Public Comments

No comments.

4. Referrals**Killingworth: Update to 2008 PoCD**

A. Torrance Downes presented a draft summary of the Killingworth PoCD with bullets and notes of interest. Stephanie Warren said that the summary looked good; she said that a lot of people put their efforts into the plan. Stephanie Warren talked about the survey results and said that the results reflect the town's wishes, the towns around it and the State of CT's PoCD.

B. There was a discussion about the addition of Agro Tourism in the agriculture section. Torrance Downes reviewed some of the bulleted points.

C. Bill Neale asked if there had been any conversations about returning paved roads back to dirt roads as maintenance is less expensive and dirt roads are better in the winter. No comments were made in the plans about dirt roads.

D. A comment was made about the good thought provoking questions at the end of the survey, the maps and the difference with the 27% drop in population vs. the projected 32% increase in population.

E. Torrance said that the draft plan is consistent with what is around them and fills the typical needs. It also is consistent with the 6 State plan recommendations.

Bill Neal made a motion that the draft Killingworth PoCD is consistent and has no municipal impact. Beth Emery seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimous.

5. STATE PoCD: Final Draft of State PoCD issued

A. Torrance Downes summarized the comments on the final draft of State PoCD by stating the concerns of the locational map and the comments of the census blocks that were identified with priority funding areas with one criterion. OPM's response is their recommendation; not sure whether or not those recommendations will be heeded by the legislative committee empowered to adopt the new plan. OPM is recommending two criteria be used for the census block and how they are classified.

B. Bill Neale recommended that a letter be written to the COG towns concerning: what they need to do if this affects them, if they want to opt out and how to do it.

C. Frank DeFelice asked if the legislation concerning sea level rise was to approve the plan or the concern was if the projections are from NOAA or UConn. Torrance replied that the legislation was to adopt the plan but the mechanism of UConn vs. NOAA was to have it more localized. Mary Stone said that Old Lyme has decided that they won't take the sea level change projections from UConn but will seek other sources for projections.

D. A motion was made by Bruce Edgerton stating that the RPC reviewed the draft State PoCD and acknowledged the importance of the two criteria in the Locational Guide Map. The RPC has some questions in the “opt out” clause and the research of UConn vs. NOAA. Torrance will email Dan Morley to get some answers on this. The motion was seconded by Bill Neale. Motion passed unanimous.

6. Regional PoCD Survey Discussion

A. Frank said that the RPoCD is now a single document and the economic development section has been reviewed. Excellent tables have been done by John McDonald and copies will go out.

There was a discussion if the COG might be hiring someone to help on the RPoCD or not.

B. There are concerns about the amount of responses to the RPC survey, two towns account for 67% of the responses. Therefore, the exact same survey will be reopened for more responses. The survey will be going out to CEO’s who will be alerting their staff and Commissions about the reopening of the survey. Alan Kravitz commented that the survey is not a statistical analysis, but a representation of the feelings of respondents.

7. Approval of March 26, 2018 Minutes

A motion was made to table the approval of the minutes until the next meeting by Bill Neale and seconded by Beth Emery. Motion passed unanimous.

8. Miscellaneous

Torrance Downes brought up Sam Golds concern:

A. Substitute Senate Bill # 274 an Act Concerning Property Tax Assessments By Municipalities. This bill allows municipalities to assess property taxes on partially completed structures. At a time when the state is cutting municipal aid and transferring more responsibilities to towns, the RiverCOG does not support a proposal that would reduce municipality’s ability to raise revenues.

B. The RiverCOG has hired Eliza LoPresti for the Office Manager position. Eliza is coming with wonderful credentials.

C. RiverCOG is working on funding for the next fiscal year. State budgets should be set by May 9, 2018 when the session ends. Between now and then anything can happen with transportation, transit, and highway funding, gas tax and tolls. The toll bill is moving forward and the action route for adoption is a concern. If there is no vote it is automatically approved and it is set-up to go through.

D. Corridor studies are going forward on Rte. 81 in Clinton, Rte. 66 in Portland and East Hampton. Work is being done on a regional bus study with the two local bus companies and ConnDOT.

E. Raul deBrigard will be recognized on May 3, 2018 and inducted into the Haddam-Killingworth Hall of Fame for his hard work and time that he has given to Haddam/Killingworth.

F. Tony Bolduc asked about the time frame for the transit meetings coming up on May 1st – May 3rd at Deep River, Clinton and Westbrook. Torrance Downes will look into this.

9. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 8:14 pm was made by Alan Kravitz and seconded by Mary Stone. Motion passed unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Ehle/Meyer

N/new N/Agenda Minutes 2018/LCRVRPC/ LRVG 4.23.18 approved Minutes