



145 Dennison Road
Essex, CT 06426
860/581-8554 FAX: 860/581-8543
www.rivercog.org

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
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

Monday, June 26, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.

Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments Conference Room
145 Dennison Road

Members:

Chester:	Vacancy
Clinton:	Alan Kravitz Jack Scherban
Cromwell:	Alice Kelly * (7:09) Chris Cambareri
Deep River:	Bruce Edgerton * Vacancy
Durham:	Frank DeFelice * Joe Pasquale
East Haddam:	Crary Brownell Lou Salicrup
East Hampton:	Michael Kowalczyk * Vacancy
Essex:	Alan Kerr Vacancy
Haddam:	Stasia DeMichele Raul deBrigard
Killingworth:	Stephanie Warren * Alec Martin *
Lyme:	Vacancy
Middlefield:	Robert Johnson * Vacancy
Middletown:	Beth Emery * (7:09) Vacancy
Old Lyme:	Harold Thompson Vacancy
Old Saybrook:	Kenneth Soudan Karen Jo Marcolini *
Portland:	Dan Bourret * Vacancy
Westbrook:	Bill Neale * Marie Farrell *

* Members Present

Guests:

Tony Bolduc, Cromwell
Mike Lucus, Connecticut Chapter of American Planning Association

Staff Present:

Sam Gold
Judy Snyder
Jon Curtis
Torrance Downes
Nate Hougrand

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / SEATING OF ALTERNATES

Chairman DeFelice called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The members introduced themselves and attendance was taken. Old Saybrook alternate Karen Jo Marcolini was seated for Ken Soudan.

2. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA / APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon motion of Alice Kelly, seconded by Beth Emery, it was unanimously voted to approve the agenda.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Frank DeFelice asked if anyone from the public wished to speak. There was no one at this time.

4. REFERRAL

There were no referrals at this time.

5. REGIONAL POCD

a. Discussion of Regional Economics and History Sections

Jon Curtis stated that the regional economics and history sections had been sent to the members for their review and asked for any feedback they have. Frank DeFelice suggested the discussion begin with the Regional Economics section. He asked what the intentions were for all the references in the back of the section. Mr. DeFelice asked the members for comments and/or questions. Bill Neale said that he is a board member and past president of the New Haven Manufacturer's Association and the demand for labor and skilled machinists in Connecticut from 10 years ago to 10 years from now will more than double. Due to the fact that Connecticut abandoned a whole generation of metal cutting factory workers there is the potential for tens of thousands of jobs. Sam Gold suggested that a section be added to include education in the trades and job training. These are jobs that are available to high school graduates, pay well, and are in great demand in the state once the apprenticeships and internships are completed.

Frank DeFelice suggested that CBIA is a good source for information and Sam Gold added that some of the community colleges may offer assistance.

Marie Farrell stated that in subsection "Work Force" the first paragraph "skilled worker" is vague, too broad and needs to be specific. Sam Gold said that it needs to be defined and what types of skills are

needed or may be needed in the future. Ms. Farrell said that in the first paragraph she took exception to “unemployment is low and wages relatively high changes” and didn’t feel this is true in Westbrook. Beth Emery agreed and felt it was not representative of Middletown either. Frank DeFelice asked Mr. Curtis to clarify the term “low unemployment”. Is that referring to the region or state and Ms. Farrell asked for clarification for full and part time employment. Is this included in the “low unemployment” figures. Stephanie Warren stated that the younger people are not moving into the area and the elderly can’t sell their homes to relocate. Beth Emery asked if Connecticut is aging faster than the country. Mr. Curtis explained that this is a subsection and not a whole chapter. He will make changes and e-mail this section to the members. Sam Gold said that there will be a recommendation section for each chapter and some of these points could be referred to there.

Torrance Downes explained the draft history section of the plan. Frank DeFelice felt that the village district does not belong in the history section. Beth Emery stated that Middletown was left out of the RiverCOG history. Also little is said about the brownstone quarries in Portland. Brownstone from these quarries was very important to the area and shipped worldwide for building. The members felt that RiverCOG should be taken out and replaced with “Lower Connecticut River Valley”.

- b. Discussion of Regional Plan Website and Pertinent Public Outreach Materials
- c. Update on Status of Public Events

Jon Curtis said that the regional plan website, which Torrance Downes designed, will be the RPC’s website throughout the process. This site will be updated with upcoming events, the survey, and draft sections will be posted for members to review.

Frank DeFelice asked if the members have clicked on the link, and if so does anyone have any thoughts or comments. Sam Gold said it was very important that the survey could be taken on mobile devices. Bill Neale stated that the questions on the survey had several demographic type questions to choose from. Mr. Gold said that this was done so we could monitor the survey to insure that answered were from a diverse group of people. Mr. DeFelice told the members that the new survey sent out today (attachment #1) is not on the website and that the members should review this and get back to Mr. Curtis within two weeks with any comments they may have.

Beth Emery asked when someone attends a pop-up event we just give them information and then go home and fill out the survey or they can fill it out there. Sam Gold said they will get a business card with the website and information about the workshops, but the interactive part is that they spin the spinner, get a category and we asked them to complete the survey. That survey was approved at the last meeting, those questions power the pop-ups.

The beach communities have been notified that these events are coming and to come and participate in the pop-ups and workshops. Jon Curtis spoke about the outreach workshops and pop-ups that are planned. The survey will also be downloaded onto the iPads at the pop-ups for the public to complete. All the advertising information has come in and the spinner wheel is expected next week from the consultants. Mr. Curtis distributed the business cards and flyers to the members for them to hand out. Beth Emery suggested that paper copies of the survey be available to people who would be more comfortable filling this out at home. Mr. Curtis asked that members review the materials and get back to him with any changes. The first workshop is scheduled for August 17th in the Westbrook Town Hall from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and the second workshop will be Saturday, September 16th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00

p.m. at Wesleyan University in Middletown. Members discussed various ways of advertising these events.

Alec Martin asked if there is a reason that pop-ups cannot be held in every town. Mr. Curtis stated that the staff does not have the time to man a pop-up event in each town, however the members could take the lead on the events themselves and staff would help as much as possible.

Jon Curtis said we sent out the draft full POCD survey today via a link to the survey monkey site. We currently have a survey that was created for the pop-up events, with people answering a couple questions in certain categories. Starting with the August and September kick-off meetings we would use the full POCD survey. This survey is more in depth and more specific with some of the issues that have come up which working on existing conditions sections of the plan. We send this link out today and if the members agree we would like your feedback to us within two weeks. Frank DeFelice said that just like with the last survey the Committee will look at it and slice it and dice it and then we will rework based on the comments. Sam Gold said that the idea was to find questions that will give us information and insight into the different subject areas of the POCD. The information will be useful in writing up the plan, recommendations, and goals. He would also like to be sure we get responses from every town.

Alice Kelly stated that she had distributed a survey to the P&Z members to complete and those surveys were received by Mr. Curtis. Jon Curtis said the full survey would go live in August and would run at least to January. Frank DeFelice told the members to look at these questions the same way you looked at the last ones and contact Mr. Curtis if you have concerns about the number of questions. Mr. Gold said that we tried to keep the questions to 25. Frank DeFelice says that's not live now, take it home and review it. Beth Emery stated she is confused. Sam Gold said the current survey is meant to drive the pop-ups and is preliminary, and meant to power the pop-ups where people only answer a couple of questions in one subject area. The draft full survey that we distributed today is intended to be more finely honed and targeted, to be more useful for writing the POCD. Whereas the pop-up survey was intended to spur public engagement at the pop-ups, this survey would provide more useful information for the plan. Jon Curtis said that the survey that is distributed today will not be live until the actually kick off in August and would replace the current pop-up survey.

d. Other Updates as necessary

Jon Curtis asked if anyone had any feedback to let him know as soon as possible.

6. APPROVAL OF MAY 22, 2017 MINUTES

Alice Kelly moved, seconded by Beth Emery to discuss the minutes of the May 22, 2017 meeting.

Frank DeFelice made two changes. On page 2, item 4, second paragraph "He stated that the RPC..." should be changed to "He suggested that the RPC..." and on page 3, second paragraph, "Members discussed the possibility of creating agricultural and farm regulations ..." should be changed to "Members discussed the possibility of using agricultural and farm model regulations ...".

Upon motion of Bill Neale, seconded by Bob Johnson, it was voted to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2017 RPC meeting, as amended.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

Sam Gold said that as of now the state does not have a budget.

He said that the RiverCOG has been collecting passenger count data on every route, on every bus to determine the ridership on the MAT and Estuary Transit Systems. He said he became aware the MAT was having serious financial difficulties when flyers were on the buses stating that the evening routes were being cancelled. Mr. Gold contacted Mayor Dan Drew and meetings have been held to find a solution to this problem.

Mr. Gold said that the office move has been slow due to the agreement between the parties on the lease. The move is scheduled for the last week in July and therefore the RPC meeting has been moved to Monday July 31st in the Cromwell Town Hall. A reminder notice will be sent out to the members.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Bill Neale, seconded by Beth Emery, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Snyder
Recording Secretary

RiverCOG Regional POCD Survey Draft June 26, 2017

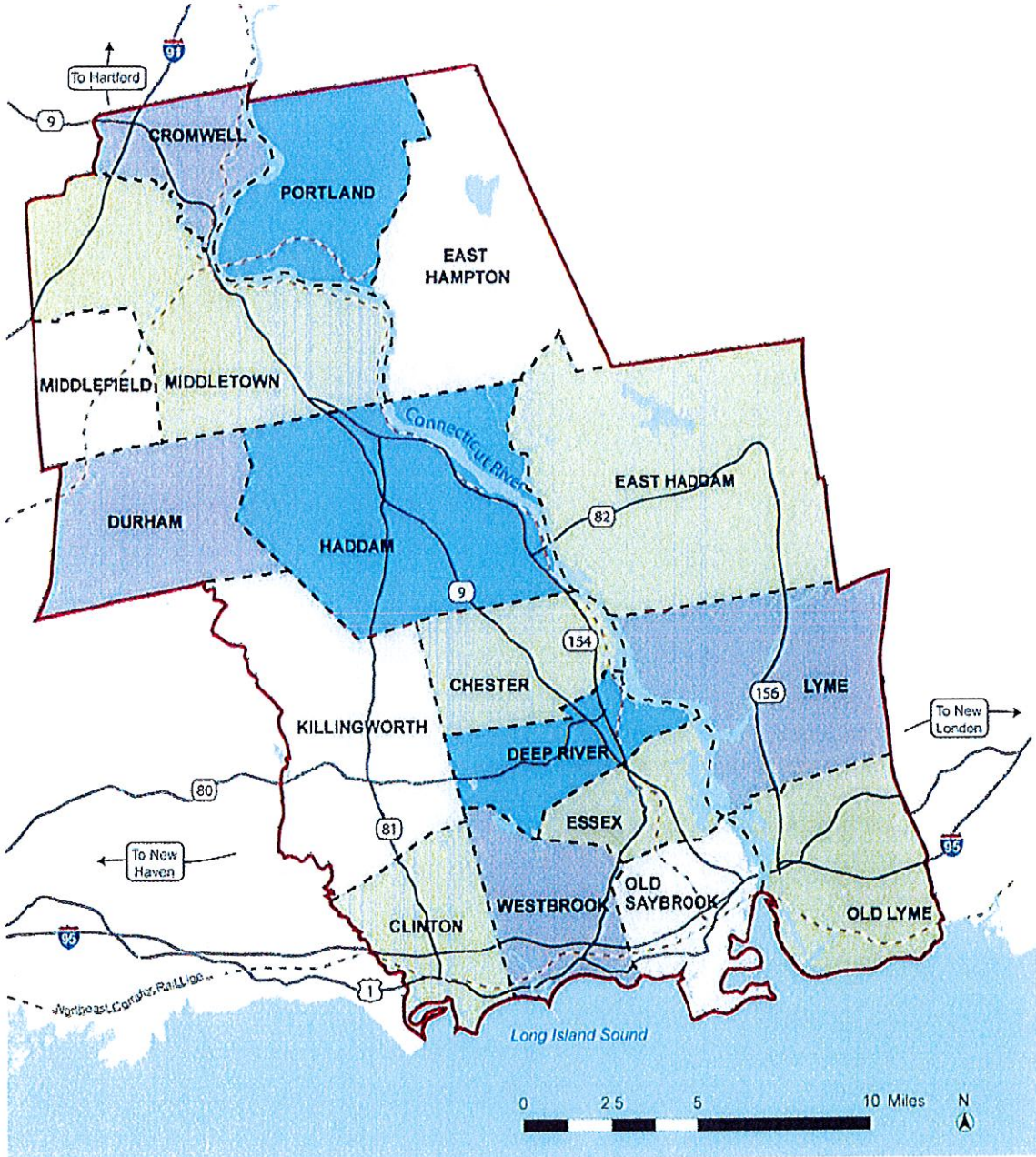
Basic Information

The Low

your thoughts, you are helping to create a Plan that will prioritize our region’s goals and guide investments over the next decade. The survey should take roughly ten minutes to complete. Thank you for your help. To get started, please tell us a little about yourself:

It is not necessary to sign your name and your answers will remain anonymous.

The Lower Connecticut River Valley Region



1. What is your age?
 - a. Under 20
 - b. Between 20 and 30
 - c. Between 30 and 40
 - d. Between 40 and 50
 - e. Between 50 and 60
 - f. Between 60 and 70
 - g. Over 70 – 80
 - h. Over 80

2. What is your gender?
 - a. Female
 - b. Male
 - c. Non-binary/Third Gender
 - d. Prefer not to say
 - e. Prefer to Self Describe:

3. Where do you live?
 - a. Chester
 - b. Clinton
 - c. Cromwell
 - d. Deep River
 - e. Durham
 - f. East Haddam
 - g. East Hampton
 - h. Essex
 - i. Haddam
 - j. Killingworth
 - k. Lyme
 - l. Middlefield
 - m. Middletown
 - n. Old Lyme
 - o. Old Saybrook
 - p. Portland
 - q. Westbrook
 - r. Place outside the region (please specify):

4. How many years have you lived there?
 - a. 0 – 4
 - b. 5 – 10
 - c. 11 – 25
 - d. More than 25

5. Where do you work?
 - a. Chester
 - b. Clinton
 - c. Cromwell
 - d. Deep River

- e. Durham
- f. East Haddam
- g. East Hampton
- h. Essex
- i. Haddam
- j. Killingworth
- k. Lyme
- l. Middlefield
- m. Middletown
- n. Old Lyme
- o. Old Saybrook
- p. Portland
- q. Westbrook
- r. Retired
- s. Unemployed
- t. Place outside the region (please specify):

6. What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed? If currently enrolled, highest degree received
- a. No schooling completed
 - b. Nursery school to 8th grade
 - c. Some high school, no diploma
 - d. High school graduate, diploma or the equivalent (for example: GED)
 - e. Some college credit, no degree
 - f. Trade/technical/vocational training
 - g. Associate degree
 - h. Bachelor's degree
 - i. Master's degree
 - j. Professional degree
 - k. Doctorate degree
 - l. Other (please specify)
7. What is your employment status? (Check all that apply)
- a. Employed full-time (35 or more hours per week)
 - b. Employed part-time
 - c. Self-employed
 - d. Student
 - e. Homemaker
 - f. Unemployed, looking for work
 - g. Unemployed, not looking for work
 - h. Military
 - i. Retired
 - j. Unable to work
 - k. Other (please specify):
8. What is your household income level?
- a. Less than \$20,000
 - b. \$20,000 to \$34,999

- c. \$35,000 to \$49,999
- d. \$50,000 to \$74,999
- e. \$75,000 to \$99,999
- f. \$100,000 to \$149,999
- g. \$150,000 to \$200,000
- h. Over \$200,000
- i. Prefer not to answer

9. How would you rate the Lower Connecticut River Valley Region on the following?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Quality of life				
Employment opportunities				
Housing options				
Housing affordability				
Public transportation				
Environmental quality				
Shopping				
Cultural and entertainment options				
Recreational opportunities				
Safety				
Nature/Parks				
Schools				
Healthcare				
Taxes				
Cost of living				

10. Of the following list of possible projects/areas of work, which do you think should be the region's highest priority goals? (Choose up to three)

- a. Attracting and retaining young adults and young families
- b. Protecting farmland and supporting farm businesses
- c. Protecting water quality and dealing with invasive species in our lakes, streams, rivers and the sound
- d. Supporting tourism and local small business marketing efforts
- e. Increasing job opportunities and economic development
- f. Making the town center areas more pedestrian friendly
- g. Building more bike trails
- h. Creating more affordable housing options
- i. Increasing access to high speed internet
- j. Increasing public transportation
- k. Looking at the potential to save money by regionalizing some municipal functions/services
- l. None of the above

m. Other (please specify):

11. How would you like to see more of the region's available land used? Check all that apply.

- a. Single-family housing
- b. Multi-family housing
- c. Shopping areas
- d. Offices
- e. Institutional (schools, colleges, healthcare)
- f. Natural open space
- g. Recreational open space
- h. Industrial land
- i. Agriculture
- j. Other (please specify):

12. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about conservation and preservation?

	Strongly agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Conservation of natural resources should be a regional priority	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
New development should be focused in existing town and village centers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The rural and scenic character of our region should be preserved	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Development of a property should be limited in order to minimize impacts on the environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historic buildings should be preserved wherever possible	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historic Villages and sites are important to the identity of the Region	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agriculture is important to the identity of the Region	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about economic development?

Strongly agree Agree No opinion/Not sure Disagree Strongly disagree

My needs for entertainment and cultural activities are met within the region

I leave the region to do most of my shopping

There are enough services within the region (doctors, auto care, etc.)

The mix of housing options fits my family's needs

Employers must look beyond the region for a qualified workforce

14. What is your housing situation?

- a. I own my residence
- b. I rent my residence
- c. I neither own nor rent
- d. Other (please specify):

15. What percentage of your family take home income (after taxes) goes towards housing? (Rounded to the nearest percentage)

- a. Between 0 and 10%
- b. Between 11 and 20%
- c. Between 21 and 30%
- d. Between 31 and 50%
- e. Over 50%
- f. Prefer not to answer

16. What types of housing do you think your town and the region need more of? (Check all that apply)

- a. Housing options that allow older adults to "downsize"
- b. Single-family homes
- c. Two-family homes
- d. Starter homes that are affordable to young households
- e. Homes that are affordable to households earning under \$66,000 for a family of 4
- f. Housing options that allow older adults to remain in their homes including affordable rehabilitation and accessibility modifications like ramps and accessible bathrooms
- g. Housing that is located within walking distance to shops and restaurants
- h. Market rate apartments or condominiums
- i. In-law or accessory apartments (a small living space attached to a larger, primary residence)
- j. None of the above
- k. Other (please specify):

17. How frequently do you use the following transportation modes?

	More than once a day	Once a day	Once a week	Once a month	Once a year	Never
Drive alone	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Carpool	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Train	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Boat/Ferry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bicycle	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

18. What would encourage you to use transit (bus or train) more often? (Select all that apply)

- a. If my job and work were close to transit
- b. More regular service
- c. Adequate transit connections
- d. Routes that go where I need to go
- e. Better/nicer buses or trains
- f. If transit saved travel time
- g. If transit cost less
- h. If more info was provided on schedules/routes
- i. None of the above
- j. Other (please specify):

19. Do you know where your local emergency shelter is?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure

20. Where do you get information in the event of a hurricane or other emergency?

- a. Town website
- b. Everclear Alert System
- c. CT Prepares
- d. Television
- e. Radio
- f. Not sure
- g. Other (please specify):

21. To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the following methods for adapting to climate change?

Strongly approve Approve No opinion/Not sure Disapprove Strongly disapprove

Build earthen berms and hardened sea walls

Restrict development in flood-prone areas

Providing additional funding for emergency management planning

Providing information and education to residents

Improving the infrastructure of our roads and bridges

Performing additional research and study

22. How often do you shop at local farmers' markets or farmstands?

- a. Once/week
- b. Once/month
- c. Once/year
- d. Never

23. What would encourage you to purchase more locally grown food? (check all that apply)

- a. Lower prices
- b. Easier to find/purchase
- c. Wider selection of goods
- d. Higher quality goods
- e. If farmers' markets accepted EBT/WIC
- f. None of the above
- g. Other (please specify):

24. Do you know about the regional agriculture websites "knowyourfarmers.org" or "ctrivervalleyfarmers.org"?

- a. Yes
- b. No

25. To what extent do you approve or disapprove of expanding the following services throughout the region?

Strongly approve Approve No opinion/Not sure Disapprove Strongly disapprove

Natural Gas Service

Water service

Sewers

Fiber Optic Internet

None of the above

Thank you for helping with our Regional Plan of Conservation and Development! Your input is invaluable to the process. Over the coming months, we will be holding multiple meetings to get more input and to give updates on how the plan is coming along.

26. Please enter your contact e-mail address to receive regional Plan of Conservation and Development updates and meeting invitations. (Optional)

Email Address