



# 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, February 24, 2020 – 7:00 pm

RiverCOG, 145 Dennison Road, Essex, CT 06426

#### Members:

Chester	Vacancy
Clinton	Alan Kravitz *
	Eric Bergman
Cromwell	Chris Cambrieri
	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	Alec Martin
	Stephanie Warren *
Lyme	Mary Stone *
Middlefield	Vacancy
Middletown	Beth Emery *
	Kellin Atherton
Old Lyme	Harold Thompson
Old Saybrook	Thomas Cox
	Karen Jo Marcolini
Portland	Vacancy
Westbrook	Bill Neale *
	Marie Farrell

\*Members Present

#### Staff Present:

Sam Gold  
Torrance Downes  
Eliza LoPresti  
Megan Jouflas  
Margot Burns

Guests: None

# RiverRPC

## 1. Call to Order

Chairman DeFelice called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

## 2. Roll Call

## 3. Seating of Alternates

Anthony LaCava (Cromwell), Sandra Childress (Essex) and Stephanie Warren (Killingworth) were seated.

## 4. Adoption of Agenda

*Ms. Emery moved to adopt the agenda, Mr. Edgerton seconded. Vote was unanimous in favor.*

## 5. Public Comments – None

## 6. Approval of Minutes of Past Meetings

*Mr. Neale moved to approve the October 28, 2019 and January 27, 2020 meeting minutes; second by Mr. Edgerton. Vote was unanimous in favor with Mr. Edgerton & Mr. Kravitz abstaining.*

## 7. Update on Regional PoCD (Update on Consultants & Megan Joufflas)

Megan Joufflas, RiverCOG's new Senior Planner, was welcomed by the committee.

A kickoff and subsequent planning meetings with the consultants, Fitzgerald & Halliday (FHI) have occurred. A draft timeline was presented to the RPC, and changes were discussed.

The presentations to each town will include existing conditions reports. Mr. Gold discussed the desire to use each town's RPC member as the local expert and face of the project. These meetings are to be completed by mid-June and are expected to be about an hour long.

A packet of materials will be forthcoming for RPC members to assist in answering questions about the project. This reference material will include information on the plan, state statutes, etc. A worksheet on town input was distributed and discussed and will be emailed as well. This is for the RPC members to fill out and will inform the plan of major issues in the region's towns. This is due back by March 6. The survey was discussed; we still have the survey from a few years ago, this may possibly become an interactive activity at public meetings.

Next month's meeting should include a draft of the presentation that will be given at each town. Discussion was held on updating of the website for the project; a structure has been created for the site and content will be updated once the new RiverCOG site is up and running. Mr. Gold discussed possible ways to receive comments from each town (possibly a Dropbox, or comments filtered through the RPC member, etc.). Recording the public meetings was briefly discussed.

## 8. Legislative Update

Ms. Joufflas put together a list of some current proposed legislation that relates to land use. This will be emailed to members and will include active links to the bills. Each bill was discussed.

## 9. Referrals: None at this time

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

Mr. Gold discussed the ongoing recovery from the RiverCOG ransomware attack. A draft report on the incident and recovery will be available to towns and other COGs at some point.

Mr. Gold noted that he met with the new Old Saybrook representative, Thomas Cox, who was unable to make the meeting today.

Dan Bourret will be leaving RiverCOG at the end of March for a position with the Town of Old Lyme. Most of the maps that are needed for the RPoCD have already been created by him.

Ms. Stone noted that no one in Lyme received information on any spring land use classes.

Ms. Emery stated that CT DOT is planning changes to Main St. in Middletown that no one in the city knew about. There will be a public meeting on March 10 at 6:30 pm at the MacDonough School in Middletown. Mr. Gold will ask Mr. Haramut to follow up with Ms. Emery.

**11. Adjournment**

*At 8:50 P.M. Mr. Kravitz moved to adjourn the meeting; second by Ms. Emery.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Eliza Lopresti