



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, October 25, 2021 – 7:00 pm

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Members:

Chester	Mike Sanders Cindy Lignar
Clinton	Alan Kravitz * Martin Jaffe
Cromwell	Nick Demetriades Anthony LaCava
Deep River	Tony Bolduc *
Durham	Frank DeFelice
East Haddam	Crary Brownell Lou Salicrup
East Hampton	Michael Kowalczyk *
Essex	Jane Siris Sandra Childress *
Haddam	Raul deBrigard Maurice Adams
Killingworth	Alec Martin Stephanie Warren
Lyme	Mary Stone Humphrey Tyler *
Middlefield	Paul Pizzo
Middletown	Beth Emery * Kellin Atherton *
Old Lyme	Harold Thompson
Old Saybrook	Douglas McCracken * Karen Jo Marcolini
Portland	Mary Dickerson *
Westbrook	Bill Neale * Marie Farrell

*Members Present

Staff Present:

Sam Gold
Margot Burns
Kevin Armstrong
Eliza LoPresti
Megan Jouflas

RiverRPC

Guests: None

1. Call to Order

Mary Dickerson called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

2. Roll Call

Eliza LoPresti called the roll.

3. Seating of Alternates – Sandra Childress (Essex) and Humphrey Tyler (Lyme) were seated.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Neale moved to adopt the agenda; second by Ms. Emery. Vote was unanimous in favor.

5. Public Comments – None

6. Approval of the Minutes of Past Meetings

Mr. Bolduc moved to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2021 meeting; second by Ms. Emery. Vote was unanimous in favor.

7. Updates

a. RPOCD

The consultants and staff are working on getting everything up on the website. Mr. Armstrong showed the interactive map(s) he has been working on. The executive summary and its Spanish translation are also ready to go.

Mr. Bolduc asked if the mapping will be available to towns; then answer is yes. Mr. Armstrong discussed the next step for RiverCOG mapping in general, which will be a downloadable library on the website.

b. Regional Housing Plan

The public launch for the plan occurred on Oct. 12th; committee members were thanked for attending and participating. The consultants are fleshing out the regional component of the plan. In January there will be another public presentation and the plan will start to be bridged with the specific town annexes that will launch around that same time.

c. Stone Wall Ordinance Discussion

Mr. Neale discussed the ordinances he found while researching the topic. In Westbrook, the POCD discusses the keeping of stone walls and Mr. Neale is interested in saving them in the region, to preserve the natural character. Ms. Dickerson noted that Portland has stone wall counts, and that stone walls can't be moved without the historical society's knowledge, but they don't have any protection. Ms. Childress noted that she did not agree with the provision that the stone wall be replaced with the same material, as she has a stone wall that needs repair which is composed party of cement, and she wouldn't want to replace the crumbling cement with more cement.

8. Referrals – None

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

Ms. Dickerson asked if anyone had created an ordinance to delay a decision on cannabis; East Hampton has created a one-year moratorium through the Town Council, Deep River has one for six months through the P&Z, and Old Saybrook has one created through Zoning.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Neale moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 pm; second by Mr. Bolduc. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eliza LoPresti