



# 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, November 22, 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 * (7:45) Maurice Adams * (7:25)
Killingworth	Alec Martin * Stephanie Warren *
Lyme	Mary Stone
Middlefield	Paul Pizzo *
Middletown	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  
Torrance Downes

Guests: None

# RiverRPC

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman DeFelice called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

**2. Roll Call**

Eliza LoPresti called the roll.

**3. Seating of Alternates** – Cindy Lignar (Chester) and Kellin Atherton (Middletown) were seated.

**4. Adoption of Agenda**

*Ms. Dickerson moved to adopt the agenda; second by Mr. Martin. Vote was unanimous in favor.*

**5. Public Comments** – None

**6. Approval of the Minutes of Past Meetings**

*Mr. Neale moved to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2021 meeting; second by Mr. Pizzo. Vote was unanimous in favor.*

**7. Approval of Meeting Dates For 2022**

*Ms. Dickerson moved to approve the meeting dates for 2022; second by Mr. Neale. Vote was unanimous in favor.*

After discussion the general consensus was that RPC meetings will remain virtual.

**8. Regional Plan of Conservation & Development Updates**

Ms. Jouflas reported that the plan is pretty much wrapped up at this point. One printed copy per town hall will be available, should they want one.

Mr. Armstrong gave a tour of the plan site, which can be found at [www.rivercog.org/plans/](http://www.rivercog.org/plans/). He highlighted the features of the interactive map. There was a discussion on a possible workshop on training on how to use the mapping tool.

**9. Other Updates**

**a. Regional Housing Plan**

There will be a second public regional workshop coming up at the end of January summing up the regional portion of the plan and kicking off the portion of the plan in which the individual towns create their 8-30j-specific plans. The regional presentation will piggyback onto the January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, RPC meeting.

**b. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**

Six of the COGs are receiving a grant from the Federal EDA. The most significant portion of funds will be used to hire a consultant to manage a CEDS. An RFP will be forthcoming for this work.

**10. Referrals** – None

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

Mr. Gold & Mr. DeFelice acknowledged Beth Emery's contributions to the RPC. She emailed this morning stating that she is no longer Middletown's representative. A letter and certificates will go out to her and to Bruce Edgerton who resigned a few months back.

Mr. Gold discussed the federal infrastructure bill. RiverCOG will soon have a digest of changes and will get it out to the RPC once it exists.

Mr. Gold discussed the towns' submittal of possible project ideas to FEMA earlier in the fall. Those should be prioritized in early December.

Mr. Gold discussed the region-wide document digitization project that the COG towns will be sending out an RFP for shortly.

**12. Adjournment**

*Mr. Pizzo moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 pm; second by Mr. Martin. Vote was unanimous in favor.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Eliza LoPresti