



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, May 23, 2022 – 7:00 pm

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Members:

Chester	Elaine Fitzgibbons Cindy Lignar * (came in after seating of alternates)
Clinton	Alan Kravitz * Martin Jaffe *
Cromwell	Nick Demetriades * Anthony LaCava *
Deep River	Tony Bolduc * (7:30)
Durham	Frank DeFelice *
East Haddam	Crary Brownell
East Hampton	Michael Kowalczyk *
Essex	Carey Duques Sandra Childress *
Haddam	Raul deBrigard
Killingworth	Alec Martin Stephanie Warren *
Lyme	Mary Stone * David Lahm
Middlefield	Paul Pizzo *
Middletown	Catherine Johnson * Kellin Atherton *
Old Lyme	Harold Thompson *
Old Saybrook	Douglas McCracken Karen Jo Marcolini
Portland	Chantal Foster * Bob Ellsworth
Westbrook	Bill Neale * Marie Farrell

*Members Present

Staff Present:

Eliza LoPresti
Torrance Downes
Ben Lovejoy
Kevin Armstrong

RiverRPC

1. Call to Order

Chairman DeFelice called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

2. Roll Call - Eliza LoPresti called the roll.

3. Seating of Alternates –Sandra Childress (Essex) and Stephanie Warren (Killingworth) were seated.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Kravitz moved to adopt the agenda; second by Mr. Thompson. Vote was unanimous in favor.

5. Public Comment – None

6. Approval of the Minutes of Past Meetings

Mr. Neale moved to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2022 meeting; second by Mr. Kravitz. Vote was unanimous in favor.

7. Referrals – None

8. Updates

- a. **Regional Housing Plan:** The town-specific 8-30j plans are now in the process of being adopted. So far Middletown, Lyme and Portland have been adopted. After this process, the regional recommendations will move forward. We are hoping to have the regional portion of the plan posted for comment in June or July.

Mr. Neale stated that he is on the board of HOPE Partnership and asked that HOPE be designated as the regional advocacy organization as foreseen in the regional portion of the plan. He requested that HOPE do a short presentation at a future meeting.

- b. **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs):** The consultants are in the analysis phase now. We are finalizing membership in the strategy committee. An informational website will be published shortly and region-wide public engagement will begin in September.
- c. **ALT to Farmington Canal Connector Project:** Mr. Gold was not available to give this update.
- d. **Legislative:** Mr. Lovejoy highlighted some items in and answered questions about legislative items contained in the comprehensive written update he distributed.

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

Chairman DeFelice noted that Durham is still examining their cannabis regulations. There has not been much public comment yet.

Mr. Demetriades reported that Cromwell closed their public hearing on cannabis and are finalizing regulations on medical, retail, and cultivation.

Ms. Stone reported that Lyme passed a cannabis ban on growing and selling.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 pm; second by Mr. Kravitz. Vote was unanimous in favor.