



# 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 27, 2023 – 7:00 pm

Virtual Zoom Meeting

#### Members:

Chester	Cindy Lignar *
Clinton	Alan Kravitz *
	Martin Jaffe
Cromwell	Nick Demetriades *
	Anthony LaCava *
Deep River	Tony Bolduc *
Durham	Frank DeFelice *
East Haddam	Crary Brownell
	Debbie Langdon *
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
	Michael Bender *
Portland	Chantal Foster *
	Bob Ellsworth
Westbrook	Bill Neale *
	Marie Farrell

\*Members Present

#### Staff Present:

Eliza LoPresti  
Kevin Armstrong  
Margot Burns  
Rob Haramut

#### Others Present:

Mary-Ellen Sutton

# 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 –Debbie Langdon (East Haddam), Sandra Childress (Essex), Stephanie Warren (Killingworth) and Michael Bender (Old Saybrook) were seated. Debbie Langdon of East Haddam entered the meeting after the seating of alternates.

## 4. Adoption of Agenda

*Mr. Neal moved to adopt the agenda; second by Mr. Kravitz. 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 January 23, 2023 meeting; second by Mr. Martin. Vote was unanimous in favor.*

## 7. Presentation on Metropolitan Transportation Plan – Rob Haramut

Mr. Haramut presented the draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) which is now in the public comment period, which runs through March 18, 2023. The presentation can be found [here](#) and the draft plan can be found [here](#).

There was discussion on the plan, including that Middletown is planning a public hearing on the plan on March 22, which is the same day that the MPO is has adoption of the plan on their agenda. Mr. Haramut was asked how information for the plan is obtained; he stated that it's a continuous process. The plan is based off the existing plan from 2019 and is updated every five years. All the MPOs are on the same schedule. It was mentioned that amendments can be created at any time.

## 8. Referrals - None

## 9. Updates

- a. **Pameacha Pond Presentation:** Mary-Ellen Sutton of Friends of Pameacha Pond updated the RPC that the City of Middletown has changed their stance and decided to support the pond and repair and/or rebuild the dam and maintain the water body. They are configuring ways to maintain support by starting a non-profit organization. There are future conceptual plans for the pond such as a fishing pier, labyrinth, and better public access, though that is still in the planning stages.
- b. **Legislative Bill on Protection of Stone Walls:** Chairman DeFelice stated HB 5400 is about protection of stone walls, it is now with the environmental committee. It is along the same lines are work that the RPC had done. Mr. Neale stated that the bill is only about stealing stones off someone's land, which is illegal anyway, and is not about preservation. Others echoed Mr. Neale's concerns.

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

Ms. LoPresti updated that the CEDS public comment period has been extended to March 15.

Chairman DeFelice noted that there is a housing committee legislative hearing the day after the meeting.

**11. Adjournment**

*Mr. Neale moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 pm; second by Ms. Johnson. Vote was unanimous in favor.*