



Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments

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Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments and Lower Connecticut River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization

MINUTES OF REGIONAL HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 – 2:00 PM

Members & Alternates Present: Pat Bandzes (Chester), Bonnie Bennet (Chester), Abby Piersall (Clinton), Daniel Smith (Deep River), Carol Jones (Deep River), David Rosengren (Essex), David Lahm (Lyme), Jim Irish (Middlefield), Marek Kozikowski (Middletown), Michael Fogliano (Old Lyme), Dan Bourret (Portland), Eric Salmon (Westbrook)

Others Present: Beth Sabilia (Center for Housing Equity & Opportunity), Kara Capone (Mercy Housing), Karla Lindquist (HOPE Partnership), Zoe Chatfield (Tyche for Deep River), Jeff Duiguo (State Senate Candidate)

RiverCOG Staff Present: Megan Joufflas, Eliza LoPresti, Kevin Armstrong, Marcos Gonzalez, Sam Gold

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Fogliano at 2:03 p.m. The meeting was held in person and via Zoom video conference.

Approval of Minutes of January 23, 2024 Meeting

Ms. Bandzes moved to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2024 meeting; second by Mr. Lahm. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Speaker – Beth Sabilia, Center for Housing Equity & Opportunity (CHEO), Eastern CT

Ms. Sabilia gave an overview of CHEO, which is one of three CHEOs in the state. She focuses on local advocacy in her role; there are multiple partners in CHEO that focus on other pieces of the pie, for example, The Partnership for Strong Communities focuses on legislation. There are three working groups within CHEO: narrative change, preservation and protection, and capacity building and production.

This year, they recently released a narrative change playbook on how to talk about housing in Eastern CT. They have also developed a score card to compare municipal housing plans with the CT DOH guidelines set forth for them (not how the plans are actually working in the field).

They may be able to help the RHC scale up our toolkit and share it with a wider audience.

<https://www.cthousingopportunity.org/cheo>

RiverCOG

Legislative Update

Mr. Gold gave a brief update on housing-related proposed legislation.

Update on Mapping Project

Mr. Gonzalez presented on what the non-profits we've already spoken with are looking for in our region. Click [here](#) to read the hand outs about Habitat for Humanity, HOPE Partnership, and Mercy Housing and [here](#) to view the presentation. For next steps, mapping will be done as an exercise to see what parcels in our region fit within the parameters set forth by the non-profit organizations.

Updates From Members

Mr. Rosengren found an article called Zoning by a Thousand Cuts that will be distributed to all the members. He suggested asking the author, Sara Bronin, if she would speak at a meeting.

Ms. Bandzes asked if there was an update about the PRO Housing grant application; there is not yet.

Other

None

Adjournment

Ms. Bandzes moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:38 PM; second by Mr. Lahm. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eliza LoPresti