



Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments

145 Dennison Road Essex, CT 06426 | +1 860 581 8554 | www.rivercog.org

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

MINUTES OF REGIONAL HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, March 26, 2024 – 2:00 PM

Members & Alternates Present: Pat Bandzes (Chester), Bonnie Bennet (Chester), Abby Piersall (Clinton), Stuart Popper (Cromwell), 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: Kara Capone (Mercy Housing), Karla Lindquist (HOPE Partnership), Zoe Chatfield (Tyche for Deep River), Ben Lovejoy (CT Dept. of Housing), Bill Neale (Westbrook), Joe Feola (Montagno Construction)

RiverCOG Staff Present: Megan Jouflas, Eliza LoPresti, Susie Beckman, Marcos Gonzalez, Sam Gold

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Bandzes at 2:02 p.m. The meeting was held in person and via Zoom video conference.

Approval of Minutes of February 27, 2024 Meeting

Mr. Lahm moved to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2024 meeting; second by Mr. Rosengren. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Regional Housing Needs Assessment Methodology Workshop

Ms. Jouflas presented an introduction to creation of an RHNA, the slide deck for which can be accessed [here](#). A recording of the presentation can be accessed [here](#). After the rest of the meeting, Ms. Jouflas went through some of the case studies from other states.

Updates From Members

Mr. Rosengren discussed the Bokum Corner district plan that is currently in public hearing until May. Though Essex residents agree that affordable housing is needed, they do not agree to put it where it's been proposed.

Mr. Lahm mentioned that Lyme was working on a zoning regulation to allow for multi-family for affordable housing. This was put on hold because the POCD states that there cannot be multi-family. The POCD is due for its update.

Ms. Bandzes reported that the Chester affordable development is delayed and is now going through housing court.

RiverCOG

Other

None

Adjournment

Mr. Lahm moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:39 PM; second by Ms. Bennet. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eliza LoPresti