



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, May 28, 2024 – 2:00 PM

Members & Alternates Present: Pat Bandzes (Chester), Bonnie Bennet (Chester), Abby Piersall (Clinton), Daniel Smith (Deep River), Thomas Pinkowish (Essex), Jim Irish (Middlefield), Marek Kozikowski (Middletown), Dan Bourret (Portland), Eric Salmon (Westbrook)

Others Present: John Guzkowski (Tyche Planning), Ben Lovejoy (CT Dept. of Housing), Bill Neale (Westbrook), Delia Fey (NECCOG), Karla Lindquist (HOPE Partnership), Laura Watson (CT DOH), Connor Quinlan (CT DOH)

RiverCOG Staff Present: Megan Jouflas, Eliza LoPresti, Susie Beckman, Marcos Gonzalez, Sam Gold, Margot Burns, Kevin Armstrong

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Bandzes at 2:03 p.m. The meeting was held via Zoom video conference.

Approval of Minutes of April 23, 2024 Meeting

Mr. Smith moved to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2024 meeting; second by Mr. Pinkowish. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Review & Approval of Agenda

Consensus was that the agenda is approved.

Discussion with Department of Housing – Ben Lovejoy

Mr. Lovejoy gave a presentation about the new technical assistance program that CT DOH has started and which is available to municipalities to assist with implementing 8-30j plans. His slides and documents about the program can be found [here](#).

Summary of HB 5474 (Passed Housing Bill)

Ms. Jouflas created a summary of the newly passed bill which can be found [here](#).

Data Dashboard

Mr. Armstrong displayed the new data dashboard which can be found at www.rivercog.org/data. The information on the site is from census data.

RiverCOG

Upcoming Meetings and Agenda Items

- a) **June Methodology Workshop:** Ms. Jouflas explained that the June meeting will be an in-person, interactive workshop to help inform inputs for the regional housing needs assessment.

Updates From Members

Chester is forming an Affordable Housing Committee.

Adjournment

Mr. Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:08 PM; second by Mr. Salmon. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eliza LoPresti