**Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments**

**and Lower Connecticut River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization**

**DRAFT MINUTES OF REGIONAL HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 – 2:00 PM

**Members & Alternates Present:** Pat Bandzes &Bonnie Bennet (Chester), Abby Piersall (Clinton), Daniel Smith (Deep River), Juliet Hodge (East Hampton), Carey Duques & Thomas Pinkowish (Essex), David Lahm (Lyme), Jim Irish (Middlefield), Marek Kozikowski (Middletown), Dan Bourret (Portland), Eric Salmon (Westbrook)

**Others Present:** Ben Lovejoy (CT Dept. of Housing), Zoe Chatfield (Tyche, various towns), Janice Atkeson (Essex), Ann Day (Paul Bailey Architects), Terri Belkas-Mitchell (Xenolith), Bill Neale (Westbrook), Regional Economic Development Committee Members: Rebecca Mead, Jennifer Donahue, Diane Arnold, Chris Cambreri, Melissa Odo, Stacie DiNello, Jean Wynalski

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

**Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 pm.

**Approval of Minutes of May 27, 2025 Meeting**

*Bonnie Bennet moved to approve the minutes of the 5/27/25 meeting. Second by David Lahm. Vote was unanimous in favor.*

**Upcoming Meetings – Poll Results**

A poll was sent out about whether members would like to re-incorporate in person meetings or not. The majority did want some in person meetings, and the majority would like them to be held quarterly. The next in person meeting will be in September 2025.

**School Redevelopment Panel Discussion – Middletown, Haddam, Clinton**

Discussion occurred on school redevelopment projects taking place in our towns. Terri Belkas-Mitchell of Xenolith Developers, Ann Day of Paul G. Bailey Architects, and Abby Piersall, Clinton’s Town Planner, discussed the Pierson School project already underway in that town. Marek Kozikowski, Middletown’s Planner, discussed the St. John’s school project which will begin soon. Haddam representatives were not able to attend to discuss the Hadam Elementary School project in that town.

**Other**

The next joint committee meeting will be in September, when Dale Kroop will attend to talk about Brownfields and Land Banking.

**Adjournment**

*Juliet Hodge made a motion to adjourn at 3:19 pm. David Lahm seconded; vote was unanimous in favor.*

Respectfully submitted, Eliza LoPresti