



necog



Northeastern Connecticut  
Transit District

## Meeting Minutes

### February 2019 Meeting

February 22, 2019 - 8:30 am - 125 Putnam Pike, Dayville, CT

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Rick Ives, NECCOG chair, opened meeting at 8:30am.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance, which included representation from the following towns: Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Eastford, Hampton, Killingly, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Scotland, Sterling, Thompson, Union, Voluntown, and Woodstock.

Also in attendance: Rick Hayes, Ann Dauphinais, Mae Flexer, Doug Dubitsky, and Pat Boyd

The first order of business was to discuss the 2019 State Legislative Session with the State delegation. Issues discussed included the use of LOCIP funds for hazard tree removal, Bridgeport Casino and impact on two tribal casinos, motor vehicle taxes, School consolidation, budget uncertainty, community college consolidation and the ability of the General Assembly to finish on time. Representative Boyd suggested a collective meeting with the Governor and all agreed that this would be a good action.

Previous meeting minutes were approved as submitted and accepted on a motion by Mr. Syme and a second by Mr. Beausoleil.

Public participation - Mr. Sarantopolous of Killingly urged the board to develop and implement a complaint process for the public.

#### Executive Director's Report

##### Program/Project Updates:

- *Property Revaluation Program* - operating on schedule
- *Engineering Program* - multiple projects in process, including:
  - ✓ *Pomfret - sidewalk extension, road realignment, bulky waste site*
  - ✓ *Chaplin - Road reclamation*
  - ✓ *Putnam - Sidewalks*
  - ✓ *Canterbury - Concept plan*
  - ✓ *Brooklyn - Commission reviews*
- *Human Services Coordination Program* - operating as structured - meeting in March to discuss addressing homelessness in winter
- *Regional Elections Monitor Program* - continues as originally set-up. The Monitor has noted issues with staffing needs in multiple towns
- *Regional Human Services/Veteran's Advisor* - Multiple persons have been assisted from the participating towns
- *GIS - Viewer* is operating without any interruptions and the participating towns are receiving parcel updates on their schedule. We have removed non-participating town parcel data for two reasons: most are quite dated and it results in issues for us and two there is cost to carrying this data that is only covered by participating towns.

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- *Paramedic Intercept Program* - operating without issue
- *Natural Hazard Mitigation Program* - The update is going forward with a new draft to be ready this summer
- *Regional housing Plan* - Work should begin by May
- DEMHS Region 4 Activities - no new activities to report
- Pomfret Branding Project - Project begun in January.
- Thompson Zoning Regulation Re-write - moving forward with full draft review
- Scotland Zoning Regulation re-write - moving forward on schedule
- Voluntown POCD is proceeding
- CFPZA Conference - I will be their keynote speaker in March discussing the regionalization of ZEOs and why we have sought to change the appointing authority from the zoning board to the town.
- HR/Back-Office Meeting - next week we will be meeting with our counterparts from the Pioneer Valley Regional Planning Agency and the Franklin County COG to discuss work they have done on regional provision of HR and other back-office functions. Our intent is to have an informational meeting in March on this topic.

### **Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Study, Phase II**

Study is now complete. The Oversight Committee has reviewed the draft report with the consultant. Modifications will be made and a public meeting with all regional pre-hospital responders will be held in March.

### **RPIP Grants**

While the pre-hospital grant has been fully expended, the HHW and the Animal Shelter grants are now in jeopardy of forfeiture. We have a design for the shelter - but with the property acquisition in doubt - going forward would not be responsible. Finding a site for HHW has not proven successful which places this grant in jeopardy. I have requested a meeting with OPM to discuss their status and what option, if any, we have going forward.

### **Transit District Operations**

- Ridership is steady and similar to past Januarys
- Annual state review for potential federal triennial review is scheduled for the first week of March. The review examines all policies, financials,
- New buses are in the process now and should arrive in about 12 months

### **Crumbling Foundations**

This past week, CFSIC approved its first two Type 1 applications, within 30 days of its launch. What this means is that two affected homeowners will now be able to proceed with the restoration of their foundations. We are still sorting through several hundred Type 1 applications, and within the next three weeks many more Type 1 applications will be approved. Type 1 claims are those claims where the claimant has a compromised foundation according to the standards set forth in these guidelines and who is seeking financial assistance for a foundation replacement. Type 2 claims are those claims where the claimant has, through his or her own resources, or a combination of those resources and other resources, already replaced an entire foundation, and where that foundation was compromised according to the standards set forth in these guidelines, and where the claimant is seeking reimbursement for the costs associated with replacement.

The most pressing need is to get more of the already approved bond allocations on the Bond Commission agenda.

### **Transportation**

- Multiple road projects are either in the early planning stages or the application stage. These include:
  - ✓ Putnam - Grove Street, Church Street and Five Mile River Road

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- ✓ Thompson - Main Street, Quaddick
- ✓ Killingly - Upper Maple Street
- ✓ Eastford - Old Colony

- Transportation Inventory for the LRTP is, with the exception of one town, now complete. It is being compiled and we should be able to share the results of it in March.
- A Freight Survey, also related to the LRTP, is being developed and should be sent to you as an e-survey in March.
- A Recreational Trail survey is also being developed for the LRTP and will be forwarded to you when ready as an e-survey.
- Airline Trail connections received good news with a substantial addition of funds to the TAP grant for Pomfret and a DEEP award to plan the connection from the Trail to the River Trail in Putnam. NECCOG will be using other transportation planning funds to examine the connection north to Thompson and south to Killingly.
- Greyhound has asked for support for two bus routes for the region (attachment). One would go from Hartford to Cheshire to Norwich to Plainfield and then Providence and back seven days a week and the other would go from Hartford to Windham to Brooklyn and Providence and then back five days per week. I did discuss the possibility of developing a north-south route to Worcester and to the Norwich-New London area. There will be follow-up on this possibility.

### **Census PSAP Process**

NECCOG agreed to be the point organization for the 2020 Census for Windham County. The Census is done on a county basis and therefore they wanted eight COGs to take the task on. To that end, we will be covering Windham, SECOG will cover Voluntown and CRCOG will cover Union. There will be quite a few changes with the new census - especially as it relates to Block Groups and CDPs (Census-Designated Place). We will be able to identify CDPs for each town - providing the opportunity to have sub-town census data that may assist in gaining grants as well better understanding those places.

### **Animal Services Program**

February has been very busy in terms of investigations. We are investigating multiple dog abuse cases and one equine case. Our adoptions are going well; with the shelter having plenty of space.

### **Investigation Actions Update**

A summary of our actions to date to address the findings and recommendations made as a result of the investigation is included in your packet. This report will be discussed with the Executive Committee in March and I anticipate actions to be ready for the March meeting on several of the recommendations.

### **2019-20 Budget/Work Plan**

Assessments were sent to each of you in January. The intent is to discuss the work plan in March.

### **Annual Audit**

It has been complete for quite some time and should be sent shortly and ready for action in March or April.

## **Discussion and Action Items**

1. Policy Re-Affirmations for both NECCOG and NECTD - motion by Ms. Nicholson and second by Mr. Syme all were adopted as presented.

- Title VI Notice to the Public
- LEP Plan
- Title VI Complaint Process and Procedure

- Title VI Complaint Form
- Title VI Complaint Log
- Organization Chart
- Demographic Data

- Title VI Assurances included in All Federally Funded Contracts
- Public Participation Plan

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2. Regional Referrals - motion by Ms. Nicholson and second by Mr. Syme both were found to have no regional impact..
  - a. Town of Willington - Zone Text Change - Proposed Changes to Sections 12.03.03.04 (Recording) and 12.12 (Commencement and Completion of Construction) - changes are technical in nature with no regional impact.
  - b. Town of Griswold - Zone Text Change - Proposed Changes to Section 11.18 (Accessory Apartments) of the Zoning Regulations - no regional impact anticipated.
3. STIP Amendments - motion by Ms. Nicholson and second by Mr. Syme the project was endorsed.
  - a. Project No. 0111-0124 - AIR LINE TRAIL BIKE/PED IMPROVEMENTS, Phase - Construction \$4,988,000 (increase from \$2.71m)
4. Endorsement of the Proposed Greyhound Commercial Bus Service to Plainfield and Brooklyn - motion by Ms. Tendrich and second by Mr. Syme the project was endorsed.
5. Nominating Committee selected as follows: David Eaton, Cathy Tendrich and Allan Cahill
6. Endorsement of Grove Street Sidewalk Project for the Town of Putnam - motion by Mr. Beausoleil and second by Mr. Syme the project was endorsed.
7. Selectmen's Roundtable

Discussion by Mr. Ives that the State is now placing the costs associated with the maintenance of traffic signals on state roads on the towns

**Adjourn - 10:13 am**