



Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Eastford, Hampton, Killingly, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Scotland, Sterling, Thompson, Union, Voluntown and Woodstock



## Meeting Minutes January 2021 Meeting

January 22, 2021 - 8:30 am - via ZOOM

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Representation from the following towns: Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Eastford, Hampton, Killingly, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Thompson, Union, Voluntown, and Woodstock.

### 1. Open Meeting 8:33am- Tracey Hanson, NECCOG Chair

- a. Welcoming Remarks
  - Recognition of the passing of Russell Grey, 16 year First Selectman to the Town of Sterling/former NECCOG Chair
- b. Previous Meeting Minutes
  - Motion to approve made by Maureen Nicholson, second by Kevin Cunningham. All in favor.
- c. Public Participation
  - Jennifer Carrier, Federal Highway Administration - greetings and introduction
- d. Other Agenda Items
  - Request to add item 4G to the amended agenda to the discussion - motion made by Rick Ives to approve, second by Tracey Hanson.

### 2. Presentation - NE Economic Alliance President, Shawn Johnston - Chair

- NE Economic Alliance is a small lending group, serving 21 towns in Windham, Tolland, and New London counties to help grow, build, and sustain their businesses.
- Offering no cost initial consultation. More information can be found at [nealliance.com](http://nealliance.com)
- Contact Ellen Parent, Administrative Aide - located at Eastern CT State University Campus - 860-465-5141 || [mail@nealliance.com](mailto:mail@nealliance.com)
- Due to COVID-19, active/current clients have been subject to 6 months loan forbearance. Extensions have been granted on an as needed basis.
- Offering "COVID loans" to former clients with 6 months forbearance.

### 3. Director's Report - John Filchak, Executive Director

Slides are available at <http://neccog.org/about/agendas-and-minutes/>

#### a. Transit Activities

NECCOG meetings are conducted in accessible locations and materials can be provided in accessible formats free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, alternative material formats such as audio, Braille, and large print), as available. Interpreter and other translation requests must be made at least fourteen (14) business days before the meeting. Materials in alternative formats must be requested at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting.

NECCOG fully complies with all Federal and Connecticut nondiscrimination protections, including, but not limited to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in all of its programs and activities. NECCOG does not discriminate on the basis of: race, color, national origin, English proficiency, or age, ancestry, background, disability, gender, gender identity or expression, income, religion, sex, sexual orientation or expression, or military status. Any person who believes himself/herself or through a representative, file a complaint with NECCOG. Please view our website [neccog.org](http://neccog.org) or call 860-774-1253 for details/assistance in filling a complaint or for additional information.

- Elderly & Disabled ridership numbers are still down and has not recovered from the effects of COVID-19. Rural ridership has had a slight trend upwards. Plainfield ridership numbers are holding steady, but at a lower than anticipated rate.

**b. Animal Services Program**

- Nearly 1,200 investigation completed in 2020.
- Adding Norwich to NECCOG Animal Services is still pending.

**c. Paramedic Intercept Program**

- Acknowledgment of the passing of Randy Daggett.

**d. Regional REVAL Program**

- Contract will be circulated electronically by the law firm Shipman & Goodwin to collect the final signatures. Lisbon and Woodstock will begin as soon as all signatures are collected.

**e. Transportation Projects and Planning**

- State approvals from District 2 have been received - pending approval from towns and COGs.

**f. Housing Plan Status**

- Draft is near completion, then will be circulated.

**g. COVID Recovery Efforts** - key function is to seek out through our Working Groups input from impacted constituencies regarding the pandemic in terms of unmet needs (short and long term), solutions/strategy to those needs - including funding.

- Three Working Groups
  - Economic/Natural and Cultural Resources
  - Community Planning & Capacity Building/Infrastructure
  - Health & Social Services/Housing

**h. 2021 Legislation**

- Legislation has been completely virtual, with little to no bills being issued. Possible movement on Pilot and Property tax reform.

**i. COG County Equivalency**

- Pending before census - comments are due in February.

**j. Crumbling Foundations**

- 285 foundations replaced in 24 months
- Average cost of a full foundation replacement is \$154,139
- 50+ projected, starting July 2021
- CFSIC carries registered claimants totaling 1,689 of which 480 are pending claimants
- CFSIC has paid claims totaling \$56,852,737
- Current statutory June 30, 2022 sunset date

**k. Member Town Assistance**

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**l. Legislative Meeting**

- Teleconference to be held in February 2021

**4. Discussion and Action Items**

**a. 2021 - 22 Work Plan** *(please see meeting slides for more detail on each program)*

- Existing:** Engineering, GIS, Human Services/Veterans Advocate, Economic Development
- Potential:** Town Administrative Assistance

**b. Legislative Priorities**

- Crumbling Foundations Funding and CFSIC Extension
  - Extended to 2030
- COG Funding Formula Change
  - New base/per capita

**iii. RPIP Reformulation**

- Narrows who can receive
- Changes criteria to be more realistic
- Only require a majority vote and no local resolutions
- Removes Inter-Local Agreements

**iv. Executive Order Codifications**

- Hybrid Meetings
- Use of Electronic filings/permits
- Remove Newspaper postings for websites

c. **Regional Referrals** - none

d. **STIP Amendments** - none

e. **Action Items** - none

f. **Resolution 1-1-21 - Re-authorization for the Executive Directors to Sign All Documents on Behalf of NECCOG and NECTD** - Maureen Nicholson made motion to approved, second by Rick Ives, all in favor, none oppose.

g. **Resolution 1-2-21 - Authorizing a Change in the Annual NECCOG Assessment to \$1.10 per capita annually to cover Annual Mortgage Payments for the Purchase of the Land located at 125 Putnam Pike** - Maureen Nicholson made motion to approved, second by Rick Ives, all in favor, none oppose.

h. **CEO Roundtable**

- Record Retention
- COVID-19 Related Absences from Work

**5.Adjournment 10:05am** - 1st Kevin Cunningham, 2nd Rick Ives