



Meeting Minutes

October 2020 Meeting



October 23, 2020 - 8:30 am - via ZOOM

Allan Cahill, NECCOG Chair, opened meeting at 8:31am.

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

Introduction and welcoming of Ashford's new First Selectman, Cathryn Silver-Smith.

1. Call to Order

- Motion made by Allan Cahill to approve previous meeting minutes, first by Gary Greenberg, second Mary Calorio - abstention from Cathryn Silver-Smith, approved by all other members.

Public Participation - none

2. Director's Report - John Filchak, Executive Director

- **Transit District Operations:** With the capacity of 5 riders at one time per bus, the increase positivity rate of COVID-19, and cold weather approaching - NECTD ridership numbers are down 60-80%.
 - Elderly and Disabled ridership has also dropped. NECTD is providing essential services only. The majority demographic that utilizes this service are considered to be high risk.
 - Plainfield AM and PM lines are operational as of September 8th. Plainfield hasn't had public transportation available for 22 years. On average, NECTD is providing transportation to approximately 6.5 riders per day.
- **Animal Services:** In terms of numbers and activity, COVID-19 hasn't impacted the program. This year's projections are on track to meet and possibly exceed last year. The total population in the shelter has not been even half full yet this calendar year. Reason being that animals are moving in and out of the shelter at a faster rate.
- **Engineering Program:** Syl Paul, NECCOG Engineer, has been working on a number of projects for the towns of Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Pomfret, and Putnam.
- **Paramedic Program:** number projections are on target to meet last years numbers.

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- **Regional Reval Program:** currently in the final stages of finishing up the contract with the attorneys. Working on finalizing details such as adding language to include COVID-19. Once complete, contract will be ready for signatures and the for participation towns, the next 5 year cycle can begin.
- **GIS Program:** Jim Larkin, NECCOG Associate Director, is working on parcel updates with Brooklyn and Woodstock in particular. Also working with eQuality and Vision on ownership extracts and software compatibility.
- **Economic Development District:** Application and all other requirements have been submitted. We are not awaiting EDA action and have been told we are 4th in line presently.
- **CARES Act Recovery Assistance Grant Funding:** the state has denied funding to COGS as of last report. Recent activity for NECCOG is that \$47,000 have been made available to put towards previous expenses.
- **Crumbling Foundations:** 230 foundations have been completed. Yhr CFSIC's average replacement allowable costs are at \$155,096. CFSIC's cap still remains at \$175,000. To date, the amount of paid claims are \$50,133,513. More information can be found at crumblingfoundations.org
- **Transportation Projects/Initiatives, LOTCIP, LRPT, and Veteran's Transport Status:**
 - LOTCIP projects for Putnam and Thompson waiting on CONNDOT Review
 - STP Rural Projects for Eastford, Hampton and Thompson in progress
 - New STP Rural application for Scotland beginning
 - LRTP in progress
 - Veteran's Transportation Program on hold due to COVID-19
- **HEARTSafe Program:** NECCOG has joined program. Currently housing CPR manikins and training supplies which will eventually be lent out for training purposes to businesses/facilities that are interested.
- **125 Putnam Pike Acquisition Status:** title search is complete
- **Region IV DEMHS Activities and Recovery Efforts:** Statewide Long-Term Economic Recovery Strategy
 - Phase 1, September - December 2020, in partnership with the State, Advance CT, 9 COGs, 5 DEMHS Regions & Philanthropic Organizations, GRI, and McChrystal Group will provide capacity building support to the newly formed Regional Recovery Steering Committees and produce regional resilience baseline assessments.
 - Phase 2, 2021-2022, GRI will pilot an including planning process in representative communities in each of the 9 COGs. GRI and McChrystal Group will support capacity-building and planning efforts supported by the U.S. Economic Development Administration and let by Connecticut's Council of Governments.
 - **DesegregateCT:** CT Land Use System Forum Meeting, Thursday October 29, 2020 6:30pm - 8:00pm via ZOOM
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86348774259?pwd=TnZCN1hQSkIZOUIZSm1HWXdGQVZFQT09>
 - **OPM Regional Assessment Group:** NECCOG Executive Director, John Filchak, is now a member. The group covers/discusses the following - Motor Vehicle Valuation, Shared and/or Regional Services, Revaluation - Based RFP and Schedule, Parcel Data Collection, GIS, Online Systems - Uniform Process?Data, Tax Collection - Electronic Payment, and Remote Inspections.
 - **Drought:** seeking information in regards to dry/diminished wells in efforts to get assistance from the state.

3. Discussion and Action Items

a. Executive Committee Nomination and Election: Executive Committee, acting as the Nominating Committee to put forth William Rose of Chaplin to fill the Member-At-Large vacancy for the remainder of the term (December 2020).

Motion to approve - first, Rick Ives, second Kevin Cunningham. No discussion, all in favor - motion approved.

b. Regional Referrals: Motion made by Barney Seney to approve regional referrals, second by Maureen Nicholson.

c. STIP Amendments or Actions: Motion made by Maureen Nicholson to approve STIP Amendments, second by Kevin Cunningham.

d. Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Status: presented by Alexis Meehan, NECCOG Regional Planner. Currently updating the Natural Hazard Plan, which was last updated in 2015.

e. New Regional Services Discussion - formation of a special study committee

- Administrative/Management Services
- Assessor Services
- Inspection Services
- Other - Pre Hospital Emergency Care

4. Other Business

5. Chief Elected Official Roundtable

6. Adjournment 9:17am - motion made by Kevin Cunningham, second by Gary Greenberg.