



March 2016 Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2016 - Canterbury Town Hall, 1 Municipal Drive, Canterbury CT

Allan Walker, NECCOG Vice-Chair opened the meeting a 9:04 with the Pledge of Allegiance

A quorum was present: Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Eastford, Hampton, Killingly, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Scotland, Sterling, Thompson, Voluntown and Woodstock

Meeting minutes were tabled

Public Participation

Ms. Susan Woodward, Woodstock Registrar of Voters - asked for details on regional elector position, qualifications, etc? How many hours or months? Part time? Who will define what this person does and tasks? John Filchak address the question stating that NECCOG has issued a job announcement for that position with description, from the Secretary of State's office, under \$10,000 paid by them, part time, isn't clear whether they are an employee of ours or of the state, Secretary of State's office has control over that position, we have two applicants with no decisions yet, still looking for clarification, aren't sure how it will work yet. It is unknown what the working relationship of that person to towns will be.

Ms. Woodward further asked if NECCOG will have oversights in place, what other impact will there be on us? Will someone be in place in time for the presidential primary in April? Mr. Filchak responded that the entire matter is still a work in progress. Ms. Woodward asked if NECCOG is working with the other COGs - Mr. Filchak answered that they were. Ms. Woodward expressed concern that the Secretary of State was attempting to regionalize registrar duties.

Greg Kline: RSVP and Veteran's coffee house, announced that all are invited next Wednesday to a presentation of medals to 16 war veterans - 10:00 wed 9th at Killingly Community Center. Ceremony is run by Congressman Courtney

The Executive Director, John Filchak, provided his money report on the activities of NECCOG, including:

- Regional Reval Program** - contracts are, with the exception of one town, signed and ready for activation. Chaplin will have a town meeting on March 8 to act on the contract and participation in the Reval Program. Vision has begun preliminary work with Ashford and Woodstock on their respective revals.
- Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Study** - We are now moving to Phase II. This will involve a working group of representatives from the three hospitals, 911 Dispatch, the two regional health districts, 3 representatives for the ambulance companies, 4 representatives from the 34 fire departments and the four paramedic providers. We anticipate the first meeting by the end of March.
- GIS Program** - Working with participating towns to update assessor maps. We are upgrading our software to allow for more customization and options (unique viewer windows).
- RPIP Applications** - Remember, towns now have until March 31 to endorse those initiatives (see attached summary) that they wish to be a participant.

- Route 169 National Scenic Byway Management Plan** - Public hearings will be held in March and we should be ready for a vote to endorse by the April meeting.
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy** - Three kick-off meetings are scheduled for March (Ashford, Plainfield, Putnam and at NECCOG).
- Human Services Coordinating Council** - The initial meeting will be held during the first week of April.
- Animal Services** - The most significant issue has been the taking in of more than 90 cats from a foreclosure. Most of the cats have now been placed and we have 23 cats remaining and available for adoption. We have also now upgrade the electrical service for the kennel and addressed several plumbing code issues.
- TNR Program** - We have now (as of this week) addressed 340 feral cats and serval dozen colonies in eight of the NECCOG towns. Heating has now been installed in our "cat house" to allow is to proceed uninterrupted.
- Transit** - Ridership remains steady at between 175 and 225 trips per day. The Elderly/Disabled service continues to add new qualified persons. New communication devices are now installed in our buses providing us with GPS capacity. We are working with that vendor and our Viewer vendor to incorporate the GPS data into a Transit App to allow our customers to know where the bus is and when it is expected to arrive at a given point. Our Sunday service will end after Easter due to lack of ridership.
- Veteran's Transportation** - We are just in the early stages of developing a plan. I have had a very general discussion with CONNDOT - they will need a detailed plan before they will discuss.
- Town Projects** - Work is now complete on the Eastford POCD. We are just beginning the Scotland POCD. We are also going to be assisting Pomfret with possible development along the Nora Lane portion of the town owned Murdock Property and a build out of the commercial and industrial zoned properties in town.
- MORE Commission** - The MORE Commission has completed its report on education (attached).
- Northeast Corridor (NEC) Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)** - Attached is testimony submitted regarding the NEC Tier I Report.
- Elections Monitor** - We have issued a position announcement and have had a few applicants for the position.
- New Planners** - We are in the process of seeking two additional planners. One will focus on transportation and the other on land use.
- COG SGIA** - OPM has completed their reconfiguration of SGIA funding for the COGs. While there is a \$20,000 reduction, the alternative was a much deeper reduction (attached).
- USDA Workshop** - March 9 at NECCOG

Discussion and Action Items

1. Route 169 Management Plan Presentation

Sam Alexander gave a presentation regarding the Route 169 Byway Management Plan. Mr. Griffiths asked about signage. The response was that the Oversight Committee was looking for uniform

signage that complements the Byway. Mr. Piper asked about the timeline. The response was that the draft plan was in its final stages which will be followed up by several public meetings before being finalized with a vote by NECCOG.

2. NECTD Policy Updates - **All Accepted** as presented on a motion by Mr. Griffiths and a second by Mr. Falzarano

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|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| ✓ Federal Clauses | ✓ No Show Policy | ✓ Management Agreement |
| ✓ Public Participation | ✓ Drug and Alcohol | Modification |
| ✓ Accounting Procedures | | |

3. NECTD Officer Selection - On a motion by Mr. Falzarano and a second by Mr. Walker Mr. Griffiths of Killingly was named to chair NECTD

4. Regional Referrals - On a block vote **all were accepted** as presented and having no regional impact, motion by Mr. Cahill and second by Mr. Walker

- a. Town of Plainfield, Zoning Text Changes, Sections 1.2, 8.2, 13.5, 13.54, 13.55 and 13.56
- b. Town of Brooklyn, Zone Regulation Change - Sections 13.5.4.2 and new language related to Gravel Bank Sites

5. Legislative Focus Discussion

Members express interest in holding a joint meeting with the NorthwestCOG (which was done last year) at the LOB to discuss issues of mutual interest and convey concerns. The Director was asked to set such a meeting up for April. Members expressed concern that we won't get money promised to them for this year's budget. Also, hospital payments are again in jeopardy,

6. CEO Roundtable

- Town Budget Status: Plainfield - under 1 mil, Brooklyn - additional revenues from Eversource, Chaplin - less than 1 mil, Scotland - general government side under great pressure, Voluntown - under 1 mil, Killingly - still in progress, Hampton - flat, thanks to Eversource revenue, Canterbury - Grand List dropped 9%, Sterling - decrease General Government side \$50,000, Eastford - Grand List up 2% and School Budget up 1.4%, Woodstock - trying to limit any increase, Thompson - 5.8% increase for the school and \$41,000 lost from PILOT, Pomfret - Grand List down 5.8% - Green Energy is helping with costs, Putnam - more than likely less than a mil increase

Motion to **Adjourn** at 10:25 by Mr. Beausoleil and second by Mr. Falzarano - unanimous