



September Regular Meeting

September 23, 2016 - 9:00 am - Conference Room, 125 Putnam Pike, Dayville

Mr. Walker **opened the meeting at 9:01** and noted that a quorum was present. Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Hampton, Killingly, Plainfield, Putnam, Scotland, Thompson, Voluntown and Woodstock

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was conducted and there was **no public participation**.

On a motion from Mr. Sweet and a second from Mr. Piper the **Revised Agenda was accepted**.

The **August Meeting minutes** were approved as submitted by unanimous vote.

Presentations

- Ed Dombroskas**, Executive Director - **Eastern Regional Tourism District/Mystic Country**, Update and Status of the Eastern Connecticut Tourism District Mr. Dombroskas first discussed the activities of the tourism district and the many advances made during the past two years. He noted that the number of inquiries had increased more than 200 percent during this period. He described how the District has made a strong effort to detail the happenings of the northeast region and has used social media to promote people to visit. He then discussed the bad news for the District. In 2015 there was a slight reduction in funding and they had confidence that 2016 might at worst bring the same type of reductions. Unfortunately, they Administration zeroed out funding for the tourism districts. He stated that the District has reserves that will allow it to function through Thanksgiving. His staff and others have volunteered time to keep activities moving to the degree possible. Members expressed strong concern with the elimination of funding and support for the work done by the District.
- Lois Bruinooge**, Executive Director - **The Last Green Valley - Plaques for Town Halls and Walktober** Lois updated the members on Walktober and that they have more than 50 events scheduled. She also provided their new Visitor's Guide and discussed five recently announced grants given to towns in the Region. She also expressed concern about future federal funding, She then explained that since the Heritage Corridor was renamed to the Last Green Valley Heritage Corridor, the decision was made to make new plaques for every town hall to hang. She then distributed the plaques to members that had not already received one.
- Douglas Lary, **NECCOG Regional Election Monitor, Update** - update, Doug provide an update of his activities with this new NECCOG position. he described that he helps towns prepare for elections and handle any communications from Sec. of State. The monitors have had little direction for the State and are taking what to do each other and needs of COGs served. He explained the required training, as an election moderator. He briefly discussed a October 1st training session in Scotland. The members had a variety of questions concerning the election process and his role.

Director's Report - John Filchak, Executive Director

Transportation

- The Director reported that staff has or will be reaching out to everyone regarding the use of various transportation funds

- The Long Range Transportation Plan is in its final draft stage and will soon (October/November) be brought to the public for comment
- Animal Services** - Steady investigative work, not that many dogs compared to years past, lots of cats. The Director reported that the shelter did experience a break-in and a dog was stolen - to date that dog has not been recovered. NECCOG is currently taking bids on a video surveillance system and have an offer from Nicolas College Criminal Justice class to have a security audit of the facility - which NECCOG has accepted.
 - He reported that NWCOG is coming to NECCOG in October to view our operation - they are looking to develop a similar one for their region
- GIS**, working with assessors on parcel updates - MS4 data sets from UCONN to assist with your MS4 Plans should be available in December.
- Concrete Foundations** - CRCOG has set up a committee and asked that NECCOG be a member - The Director indicated that he had accepted the offer and will represent NECCOG.
- Transit District**
 - Plainfield - two public hearings held, surveys underway - application in a few weeks
 - Veterans - meeting this week with our Congressional Delegation, VA from Providence, WRTA and CMRPA - appears that the preferred approach would be a five day shuttle (2 to Worcester and three to Providence) with a part or full time coordinator. 10,000 veterans in the 16 town region. The Region will need a bus, driver, coordinator approximately \$100 - \$125,000.
 - Related to that, NW would like to meet in Hartford in November to discuss (as we did last year) the upcoming legislative session
- Paramedic Program** - four respondents and two have been interviewed. The review committee has a series of suggestions aimed at improving the program that the Director discussed with NECCOG's attorney. Based on that discussion, the RFP will be voided and re-issued with the changes suggested by the advisory panel. Most of these changes relate to improving and assuring quality.
- 125 Putnam Pike** - The land has now been appraised and expect to meet with Killingly soon to discuss where we are going
- CJEF** - The Director noted that he had forwarded to the Council various articles on this case - the Supreme Court has now agreed to hear the State's appeal
- Water Supply Assessment** - The Eastern Water Utility Control Committee will be analyzing the need and capacity for water service in each town. Each member will be getting a questionnaire from the Committee's consultant and at our October meeting we will have a presentation detailing the process.
- Celebrate CT** will take place on **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30 at The Bushnell in Hartford**. The NECCOG regional winners will be announced shortly.

Discussion and Action Items

1. Regional Referrals

- a. Town of Brooklyn, Proposed Six Subdivision, 6.44 acres on east side of South Street - approved unanimously on a motion by Mr. Sweet and a second by Mr. Syme.

2. Resolution Appointing Ken Beausoleil to be a Member of the Workforce Investment Board - approved unanimously on a motion by Mr. Syme and a second by Mr. Piper.

3. Resolution to the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Regarding CCM's Regionalization Initiative - discussion concerning the lack of representation from the NECCOG region and the need for CCM to consider the NECCOG region in its policy development - approved unanimously on a motion by Mr. Walker and a second by Mr. Brodeur.

4. STIP Actions/Amendments - block vote - approved unanimously on a motion by Mr. Sweet and a second by Mr. Syme. Project Number 0136-0072, Town of Sterling - REPLACE BR

02132 OVER CEDAR SWAMP BROOK, FD Phase - 2017 \$100,000 - MOVE FROM FFY'16 TO FFY'17

- e. Project Number 0136-0072, Town of Sterling - REPLACE BR 02132 OVER CEDAR SWAMP BROOK, ROW Phase - 2017 \$50,000 - MOVE FROM FFY'16 TO FFY'17
- f. Project Number 0111-0122, Town of Pomfret - REPLACE BR 02339 OVER BARK MEADOW BROOK, FD Phase 2017 - \$100,000 - MOVE FROM FFY'16 TO FFY'17
- g. Project Number 0111-0122, Town of Pomfret - REPLACE BR 02339 OVER BARK MEADOW BROOK, ROW Phase 2017 - \$50,000 - MOVE FROM FFY'16 TO FFY'17

8. **Route 169 Management Plan** Endorsement - Mr. Piper asked that an additional public meeting be held in Canterbury before final action on the plan - the members agreed.

9. **Resolution** Directing the Executive Director to Write a Letter Supporting the Points made by the Capital Region Council of Governments Concerning the **Assessment Related to Crumbling Foundations** - approved unanimously on a motion by Mr. Syme and a second by Mr. Ives

Motion by Mr. Walker and a second by Mr. Syme to adjourn at 10:23 am