



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



Meeting Minutes March 2021 Meeting

March 26, 2021 - 8:30 am - via ZOOM

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

1. **Open Meeting 8:31am-** Tracey Hanson, NECCOG Chair
 - a. Welcoming Remarks - Tracey Hanson, NECCOG Chair
 - b. Previous Meeting Minutes
 - Motion to approve made by Mary Calorio, second by Bill Eaton - all in favor.
 - c. Public Participation - None
 - d. Other Agenda Items - none
2. **Director's Report - John Filchak, Executive Director**
 - Slides are available at <http://neccog.org/about/agendas-and-minutes/>
 - a. **Transit Activities**
 - Although still below 'normal', transit ridership statistics for all services remain steady with a slight upward trend.
 - b. **Animal Services Program**
 - The start date for the Town of Norwich is still to be determined.
 - Activities such as adoptions, redemptions, investigations, and impounded animals have not been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - c. **Paramedic Intercept Program**
 - Paramedic services have remained steady.
 - d. **Legislation of Note** - see slides for list
 - Bills were sent out to members for review.
 - e. **Transportation Projects/Initiatives, UPWP Draft**
 - Unified Planning Work Program, two year work program with ConnDOT 2022-2023
 - EDA Recovery Grant draft was submitted and due to be reviewed in the next month or two.
 - Develop a pandemic focused Economic Recovery and Resilience Plan
 - Provide Disaster Recovery Support to the regions Recovery Steering Committee and subcommittees
 - Host a series of virtual entrepreneurial meet-ups, educational webinars and/or other virtual networking functions that bring together new and existing businesses.
 - Establish and maintain an on-line presence/website, for a two year period, to assist in the economic recovery of identified sector(s) in the region.

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f. Crumbling Foundations

- 47 affected communities - 1,729 applications
- In the last 24 months, 291 families have had their foundations replaced
- Average cost of remediated foundation - \$154,236

3. Discussion and Action Items

a. American Rescue Plan Act - Outreach Assistant, Brianna DeVivo of U.S. Senator Christopher Murphy's Office brianna_devivo@murphy.senate.gov

- CT will receive \$4.3 billion in state and local town relief. Allocations for State are within 60 days of enactment. Once received, it will be distributed within 30 days to towns.

b. Northeast Region - Arts & Culture/Economic Development - Wendy Bury, Executive Director of the Cultural Coalition w.bury@culturesect.org

- Independent nonprofit 501 c3 launched in 2014
- Serves as one of eight regional "field offices" of the CT Offices of the Art to support Department of Economic & Community Development.
- Free partnership (membership) organization
- Mission is to improve the economy, vitality and quality of life in Southeastern CT by supporting arts, cultural and creative community.

c. Community Project Funding - Emma King, District Director - Congressman Courtney emma.king@mail.house.gov

- Project formerly known as Earmark where members can submit community projects.
- Provides an opportunity for small local initiatives that are critical to our region's recovery to be funded directly by the federal government in legislation, not by a competitive grant process.
- This year there will be two : One through the appropriations committee and another through the large surface transportation authorization - which is part of a larger infrastructure bill.

d. Rural Town Funding Opportunity - Jennifer Lerch, Director Business and Community Programs (MA/CT/RI, Rural Development - United States Department of Agriculture jennifer.lerch@usda.gov // (413) 295-5151 Ext. 7241

- Locations - CT : Norwich and Windsor, MA : Amherst (HQ), Hadley, Holden, and Wareham, RI : Warwick
- Community Facilities Loans/Grants
 - Low rate 40 year loans and grants
 - Many provide Technical Assistance for app development and/or training (RCAP Solutions)
 - CF Grants are a "matching program"

4. Regional Referrals - none

5. STIP Amendments or Actions

- Motion made to approve by Rick Ives, second by Gary Greenberg - all in favor.

6. 2021 - 2022 Work Plan Discussion - skipped due to time restrictions

7. Other Business

- Special Meeting to be held on April 9, 2021 8:30am via ZOOM to discuss housing bill, legislation, and other items.

8. Adjourn 10:25am : motion made by Rick Ives, second by Gary Greenberg - all in favor.