



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



Meeting Minutes

April 2021 Meeting

April 23, 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 8:30am-** Tracey Hanson, NECCOG Chair
 - a. Welcoming Remarks - Tracey Hanson, NECCOG Chair
 - b. Previous Meeting Minutes
 - Motion to approve made by Bill Rose, second by Allan Cahill - all in favor.
 - c. Public Participation
 - Sue Starkey of NDDH: notify attendees about budget at the state level. The state funds health districts per capita and funds have been decreased by the government. This year the Appropriations Committee has proposed a budget that increases local health per capita at the district level by 75 cents. Sue will be writing a letter to the governor asking for support of this change and asks the board members of NECCOG for additional support.
 - 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.
 - ConnDot requested transit districts to provide list of enhancements/improvements related to our building and services. Some items included are a new roof, proposal of a route midday to and from Willimantic to link with Windham Region Transit District, also proposed a possible link to Webster and Southbridge, MA.
 - b. **Animal Services Program**
 - Activities such as adoptions, redemptions, investigations, and impounded animals have not been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - NECCOG Animal Services recently seized over 30 cats from 2 different homes and have begun the process of adopting them out. A horse was also adopted out.
 - c. **Paramedic Intercept Program**
 - Paramedic services have remained steady.

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d. Regional REVAL Program

- **SB 870, File 556** - An act concerning the recommendations of the office of policy and management. *(see slides for more details)*

e. Transportation Projects and Planning

f. Housing Plan Status

g. COVID Recovery Effort

- Discussions continue on a monthly basis with multiple working groups to assess efforts and report additional information.

h. 2021 Legislation Review/Update

i. COG County Equivalency

j. Potential Change to “Urban” Definition

- Change may effect Worcester Urbanized Area - funds us \$538,000/annually for road projects, with several projects currently pending.

k. Crumbling Foundations

- **HB 6646, File 550** - An act concerning crumbling concrete foundation
 - This bill makes the Connecticut Foundation Solutions Indemnity Company (CFSIC) permanent by elimination the current June 30, 2022 termination date.
 - Allow the CT Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) to make loans to CFSIC so that it may pay claims.
 - Extends the Health Homes insurance surcharge sunset date by 12 years, until December 31, 2041. Under current law, the surcharge sunsets on December 31, 2029.
 - Requires the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) commissioner to adopt regulations establishing standards for aggregate testing.
 - Eliminates five-year cap on reduced assessments for properties made with defective concrete - allowing property owners to benefit from a reduced assessment until their foundation is repaired or replaced.
 - Requires CFSIC to study the extent of the pyrrhotite-related foundation damage in nonresidential buildings and appropriates \$175,000 from the Healthy Homes fund for it to do so.
- CFSIC has 33 registered claimants in 27 month - 7 are pending
- CFSIC has paid \$1,486,715 in foundation remediation and reimbursements claims
- CFSIC has completed 10 foundations in Ashford for a total call of \$1,469,215.
- 47 affected communities - 1,729 applications
- If sunset date is not moved to minimum of 2030, at least 80% of our known 7 pending claimants will be left behind.

l. Member Town Assistance Status - no discussion

3. Discussion and Action Items

a. Executive Committee Recommendation on Legislation Procedures

- Continuing discussion on putting together legislative procedures in regards to how to or not to testify. Looking to put a procedure in place to help limit response on items that have to be addressed in a timely manner.

b. Regional Referrals - none

c. STIP Amendments/Actions - none

d. 2021-22 Work Plan and Budget - Initial Discussion

- Member received draft of 2021-22 work plan and budget via e-mail.
- Looking to finalize for May or June Regular Meeting.

e. Designation of the Executive Committee to Develop a Contract Recommendation for the Executive Director

- Motion made by Bill Rose, second by Rick Ives - all in favor.

f. Other Business

- **HB 6448, File 542** - An act concerning access to local governments , the modernization of local governments operations, regional councils of government and the provision of outdoor dining. *(see slides for more details)*
- **SB 870, File 556** - An act concerning the recommendations of the office of policy and management. *(see slides for more details)*
- **HB 6641, File 547** - An act concerning the remote and online provision of municipal services *(see slides for more details)*
 - See also SB 183, File 441 - An act concerning remote meetings under the freedom of information act
- **SB 1016, File 456** - An act concerning municipal ethics

g. CEO Roundtable

- 4. Adjourn 9:40am :** motion made by Kevin Cunningham, second by Maureen Nicholson - all in favor.