



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



Meeting Minutes

August 2021 Regular Meeting

August 27, 2021 - 8:30 am - via ZOOM

Representation from the following towns: Ashford, Brooklyn, Chaplin, Eastford, Hampton, Killingly, Plainfield, Pomfret, 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 Rick Ives, second by Maureen Nicholson - all in favor.
- c. Public Participation - none
- d. Other Agenda Items -
 - add Regional Referral :.

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

- Slides are available at <http://neccog.org/about/agendas-and-minutes/>

a. Transit Activities

- Ridership has diminished due to COVID-19. Social distancing has effected ridership due to limited capacity of 5 riders at one given time. Mask requirements are still in place.
- Elderly and Disabled ridership below average as well. Demographic that used this service may be hesitant to use public transportation due to the pandemic.
- Plainfield Bus Service has been successful despite COVID-19. July 2021 ridership reached 306 at an all time high since the pilot program began.

b. Animal Services Program

- Activities such as adoptions, redemptions, investigations, and impounded animals have not been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Towns of Norwich and Scotland are to join NECCOG Animal Services Program for upcoming fiscal year.
- Animal Services Officers will be at the Norwich facility daily to help close the gap in response time for the southern participating towns. There are 21 kennels, a cattery, and large recreational area.
- NECCOG Animal Services is currently housing 14 birds, 18 dogs, 27 cats, and 2 rabbits due to the result of two search and seizures.

c. Crumbling Foundations

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- Congressman Courtney - Create a Pyrrhotite Remediation Program: H.R. 4502, a legislative package containing the majority of appropriations bill for FY 2020 secured \$2,000,000 to provide assistance to homeowners and condominium owners impacted by crumbling concrete foundations due to the mineral pyrrhotite...This project could provide gap financing to homeowners or help those who may never receive assistance from the captive insurance company to repair their foundations.
- NECCOG/CRCOG are preparing a grant application through State/FEMA for assistance to commercial and public structures.

d. Regional Paramedic Intercept Program

- January - July 2021: 1, 382 total transport. Higher numbers than previous years.

e. Regional Human Resources

f. Economic Development

g. Town Assistance

h. Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

- In progress/on track

i. American Rescue Plan Act Administration

- EDA Grant has been awarded.
- Just under \$400,000 over the next two years.

j. Other

3. Discussion and Action Items

d. ARPA

- i. **FEMA Recovery Project Solicitation** - Environmental Depot, Scenic Byway/Trails Branding/ Tourism, Value-Added Agriculture, NE Visitor Center, MA-CT Transportation Connections Study - Bus & Rail

- ii. **EDA ARPA Funding Opportunities:** Build Back Better Regional Challenge, Economic Adjustment Assistance and Travel, Tourism & Outdoor Recreation

c. Regional Referrals - motion to approve made by Rick Ives, second by David Eaton.

- **Town of Killingly Zone Text Amendment** - #21-1264 Town of Killingly, Add Section 420.2.2; General Commercial Zone; Special Permitted Use; Service Storage Facility.
- **Project Z-2021-85, Town of Ashford** - Proposed zoning amendments pertaining to a temporary moratorium on cannabis establishments and establishing a Lake District.

d. STIP Amendments or Actions - motion to approve made by Maureen Nicholson, second by Rick Ives.

- i. **Project 041-0157, Town of Thompson** - Replace Bridge 02128 on Sunset Hill Brook \$303,000, 2021 - increase cost from federal estimate \$170,000

e. Resolution 8-1-21 - Non-Metropolitan Areas Consultative Planning Process - motion to approve made by Maureen Nicholson, second by Rick Ives for both agenda items (e.) and (f.)

f. Modification to the Unified Planning Work Program - UPWP

g. Executive order 13A - Municipal Mask Requirement Authority

4. Chief Elected Official Roundtable

5. Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining Issues for NECTD

6. Adjournment - 9:45am - motion made by Cathryn Silver-Smith, second by Maureen Nicholson.