



# NECCOG

Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments

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

Results through Regionalism

# Meeting Minutes

## January 2023 Regular Meeting

January 27, 2023 - 9:00am Canterbury Town Hall & ZOOM

[Meeting Agenda](#) | [Meeting Presentation](#) | [Meeting Slides](#)

**Representation from the following towns:** Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Eastford, Hampton, Killingly, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Scotland, Sterling, Union, Voluntown, and Woodstock.

1. Open Meeting - 9:04 am Maureen Nicholson, Chair
  - a. Welcoming Remarks
2. Meeting Actions
  - a. Public Participation - None
  - b. Other Agenda Items - None
3. Director's Report - John Filchak, Executive Director
  - a. Regional Transit Services Program
    - Deviated-Fixed Route services are rebounding but still approximately 1,000 - 1,500 riders short monthly of what ridership was pre-pandemic.
    - The Elderly & Disabled ridership, unfortunately has not rebounded and continues to lag well below pre-pandemic levels. This decrease is due in large part because patrons are finding alternate transportation, participating in virtual appointments and a continued lack of drivers. Pre-pandemic NECTD operated up to 3 buses for the elderly -disabled service - 5 days per week. Today it operates with one driver and just 3 days per week.
  - b. Regional Animal Services program
    - Rising costs in veterinarian care, fuel, electricity & heating, and personnel.
  - c. Crumbling Foundations
    - New study from CFSIC of more than 100 public buildings showed conclusively that there is no significant issues to these structures.
  - d. Regional Paramedic Program
    - The most recent numbers were shown - December 2022.
  - e. Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan
    - Work Is continuing.

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- f. Transportation Projects Update
  - TRIP Projects need to be endorsed and submitted to CONNDOT on or before April 28, 2023 DEADLINE.
- g. Long-Range Transportation Plan
  - The plan is now in circulation with the towns for project placements.
- h. EDA Grant Status
  - Work on Task 1 to update the CEDS is moving forward on schedule. Task 2 has now been dropped and the funds re-distributed to the other three tasks.
- i. Legislation-The Director briefly reviewed multiple bills that NECCOG is tracking.
- j. NECCOG Staffing

### 3. Discussion and Action Items.

- a. The Honorable Stephanie Thomas, Connecticut Secretary of State
  - The Honorable Stephanie Thomas, Connecticut Secretary of State met with the Council to discuss the new early voting ballot initiative and to meet with municipalities to introduce herself and to get a more complete understanding of what Connecticut's towns are experiencing.
- b. FY 24 NDDH Town Assessments - Susan Starkey, MPH, MS, RD - Director of Health, Northeast District Department of Health
  - Susan Starkey, MPH, MS, RD - Director of Health, Northeast District Department of Health. Ms. Starkey explained that NDDH had no choice but to ask for the increase in the assessment to the towns in order to retain and attract qualified staff to provide the member towns with the services needed. Multiple members expressed their displeasure with the increase - terming it unacceptable. There was additional discussion by some members indicating that they would seek to drop their membership with NDDH and join another health department. To this, Ms. Starkey pointed out that the District's bylaws and state statute would preclude such an immediate move and that such a change could not happen until July Of 2024. All parties agreed to continue the discussion.
- c. Broadband Mapping in Connecticut - David Lukens, Connecticut Broadband Mapping Coordinator
  - Mr. Lukens made a presentation (attached) on the state's efforts to identify where broadband is, both in access and in speed, limited in availability
  - Report problems: [www.arcgis.com](http://www.arcgis.com)
- d. Annual Policy Affirmations - NECCOG and NECTD) - ADA, TitleVI/Environmental Justice, and LEP
  - Motion to Table for next meeting made by Maureen Nicholson second by David Eaton - all in favor
- e. **STIP Actions and Amendments**
  - i. Amendment - Project #0170-3648, Interstate 84, Statewide - CONCRETE SEALER ON VARIOUS NBI BRIDGES - Phase, Construction, 2023, \$9 million (\$7.2m federal, \$1.8m state) - New Project
  - ii. Amendment- Project 0172-0528, District 2- UHPC BEAM END REPAIRS ON NHS BRIDGES. Phase, Construction,2023, \$22,700 (\$20,430 federal, \$2,270 state)- New Project
  - Motion to approve made by Kevin Cunningham second by Tracey Hanson - passed unanimously as presented.

f. NECCOG FY 24 Assessments

- Mr. Filchak explained the changes, including a new administrative fee of \$2.00 per transport to offset NECCOG costs for the paramedic program, increase to the GIS base to keep up with software costs, an increase in the hourly rate for land use services and an increase for the Animal Services Program due to increased veterinarian costs, electricity, personnel and feed. There was some discussion regarding the new admin fee for the paramedic program.
- No formal date was taken - however, there was no objection to sending these numbers to the participating towns.

g. Sustainable Materials Management Grant Program Participation

- Mr. Filchak explained that the governor had earlier in the week made an announcement centered around the management of trash and related waste. That announcement included a mention of a grant program that appears to have the possibility of enabling the Long-standing Environmental Depot. The Director will reach out to DEEP about NECCOG's possible participation.

h. Other Agenda Items

i. CEO Roundtable

- Mr. Filchak took the opportunity to introduce the Regional Elections Monitor - Douglas Lary to the Secretary of State and to indicate that this position had been a significant asset to the towns of the region.

j. **Adjourn - 10:29** Motion made by Kevin Cunningham, second by Barney Seney- all in favor.