



**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

## November 2024 Regular Meeting

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November 22, 2024 - 9:00 am Putnam Town Hall & ZOOM

Representation from the following towns: Brooklyn, Canterbury, Eastford, Killingly, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Thompson, Union, Voluntown, Woodstock.

### 1. Open Meeting - 9:08 Maureen Nicholson, Madam Chair

- a. Welcome remarks
- b. Previous Minutes approved
  - Motion made by Barney Seney, second by Kevin Cunningham.
- c. Public Participation-
  - Mike Caplet (Mike.Caplet@ct.gov)- Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security - Community fire safety notices, highlighted funding opportunities for fire departments and the execution of the Plainfield multi-jurisdictional shelter document. [CIVIX](#) online grant management portal.
  - Egzon Balidemaj (egzon.balidemaj@eversource.com) Eversource- Winter storm refresher training,
  - NDDH, Luigi Sartori - [Flu season information](#)

### 2. Program Updates Report -

- a. Transportation Planning & Projects The Active Transportation Micro-grant Program
  - b. TRIP
    - Required 20% match. Distressed Municipalities and Public Investment Communities are exempt. In-kind services will be an acceptable match. Must be municipal funds.
    - \$2M Project cap introduced
    - Disadvantaged status will be used to influence scoring and ranking
    - Application structure simplified yes/no format focusing on site/user group characteristics. Technical portion requesting supplemental information has been eliminated.
    - Unintended bike/ped theme has been removed from scoring criteria, Town's that applied previously will need to reapply
    - COG prioritization no longer required. No limitations on the number of applications submitted per region. However, each eligible municipality may submit only one application.
    - Brooklyn no longer eligible.
- DEADLINE 4 PM Friday February 7, 2025.**
- Safe Streets for ALL- Kick off meeting with NECCOG Staff November 22, 2024.
  - c. EDA Covid Recovery
    - CEDS Hubsite now live- [Link Connection](#)
  - d. CPRG
    - Central Mass & Northeastern CT Region Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Comprehensive Climate Action Plan Process. (CCAP) - Survey - [Link Connection](#) Extended to the end of the year.

### 3. Director's Report ( [Full Report](#) )

- a. Legislative Priorities & Strategic Initiatives 2025 - Below are the key topics municipalities would like to focus on:
  - State-Funded Inspection and Maintenance of Bridges Under 20'
  - Review of Early Voting Implementation: Duration, Costs, and Operational Impact
  - Proposal for Property Tax Abatement for Disabled Veterans
  - Securing Funding for the Construction of a New Animal Control Facility
  - Local-Level Approval Process for Gun Permits
  - Other Legislative Matters and Emerging Issues
- b. Animal Services
  - A new AC Supervisor started in November and will primarily cover the Norwich area.
  - The Eastford case involving 20 animals is close to settlement.
  - The Woodstock case, involving a large number of animals, has a new court date of December 11th, with final disposition expected at that time.
  - A new Woodstock case is ongoing, currently caring for 145 animals.
  - The Killingly facility requires updates and expansion due to increased demand and service coverage for more towns. Reviewing feasibility and cost options as past expansion plans are being reassessed.
- c. Transit District
  - NECCOG had an annual review meeting with the insurance company, CTDOT, and Greater Hartford Transit administrators. Productive discussions focused on potential training partnership opportunities.
- d. Regional Town Administrator
  - Met with the apparent low bidder to finalize contract based on recommendations from the review committee.
- e. Other
  - The annual meeting will be held at Black Dog in Putnam on Friday, December 20th, with lunch provided. This is an opportunity to celebrate the work of our staff, partners, and Town leaders, and to enjoy fellowship with food from a local business. Remarks and presentations will be brief, with no formal tech presentations. Please RSVP to Victoria- [victoria.fradette@neccog.org](mailto:victoria.fradette@neccog.org)
  - Monthly appearances on WINY began on October 9, 2024. The Director's regular time will be the first Friday of each month at 9 a.m. A caller expressed strong support for a new animal control facility..

#### **4. Discussion and Action Items**

- a. STIP Actions and Amendments - None for Consideration
- b. Regional Referrals (no regional impact - recommend block vote)
  - i. Town of Thompson - Petition No.1643  
Motion approved made by Barney Seney, second by Maureen Nicholson.
- c. Regional Referrals (no regional impact - recommend block vote)
  - i. None for Consideration
- d. Other Agenda Items (requires 2/3 vote)

#### **5. CEO Roundtable**

- Funding for new animal control facility
- Household Hazardous Waste disposal and resources.

#### **6. Adjourn- 10:16**

Motion to adjourn made by Barney Seney second by Maureen Nicholson.