



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

April 2025 Regular Meeting

April 25, 2025 - 9:00 am Canterbury Town Hall & ZOOM

Representation from the following towns: Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Hampton, Killingly, Pomfret, Putnam, Scotland, Sterling, Thompson, Union, Voluntown, Woodstock.

1. Open Meeting - 9:06 Maureen Nicholson, Madam Chair

- a. Welcome remarks
- b. Previous Minutes approved
 - Motion made by Barney Seney, second by Juan Roman.
- c. Public Participation-
 - Rebecca Spurrier, Eversource- Annual meeting in September held in New London, virtual options available. Reach out for questions: rebecca.spurrier@eversource.com
 - Luigi Sartori, NDDH- Working with the state to reduce risks and control mosquito populations.
 - Mike Caplet, Emergency Management- Brush fire season, for concerns & questions mike.Caplet@ct.gov

2. Program Updates Report -

- a. OPM Parcel/ CAMA Grant
 - Work Plan approved, draft contract with consultants being created.
- b. State Active Transportation Plan Update Regional Tours
 - Wednesday May 7th NECCOG to meet with CT DOT to discuss concerns on state roadways to pedestrians and bicyclists for improvements and tour locations within the region.
- c. Safe Streets for ALL
 - The first Task Force Meeting was held April 24th. We are still looking for more participants from bicycle and motorcycle groups. Public meetings will start in June.
- c. Other
 - Towns have expressed interest in Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Device program to target high-speed areas and issue tickets in accordance with Public Act No. 23-116. These are not formal citations and do not affect insurance but are intended as a deterrent to reduce speeding. <https://portal.ct.gov/dot/programs/automated-traffic-enforcement-safety-device/program-overview>

3. Director's Report

- a. Animal Control
 - Both facilities remain at capacity due to several ongoing large cases, though most animals not involved in court proceedings are still adoptable. Norwich has been informed of a fee increase for next year and that NECCOG will no longer serve them after the next fiscal year in order to better focus on core towns. A citizen recently inquired about a spay and neuter program; however, NECCOG currently lacks funding for such a program, though individual towns may choose to cover those costs at their discretion.

b. Transit District

- Jacobs Company conducted the first of two scheduled site visits on April 24th as part of their assessment of necessary repairs. They were contracted by the CT DOT to perform this evaluation in preparation for upcoming capital improvements to the building and site.

c. Regional Town Administrator

- Jordan Lumpkins has been holding office hours in participating Towns, and Mary Calorio will begin in May. Jordan also provided a comprehensive grant schedule to all. Several Towns are assessing their needs for shared administration—NECCOG has capacity to support more and will expand if needed. Human Resources will be the next regional service added, with at least one Town planning to participate next fiscal year.

d. Regional Revaluations

- All Towns have signed the contracts, and work will begin in Woodstock. The payment schedule has been sent to all Town Leaders, with the first of five equal payments due July 1, 2025.

e. Outreach

- Monthly appearances on WINY resumed on October 9, 2024. The Director's regular time will be the first Friday of each month at 9 a.m.
- The Director will continue meeting with towns individually and will attend the Killingly Town Council meeting on May 13th to discuss NECCOG's programs.

f. NECCOG programs-

- Chaplin and Thompson may be joining GIS.
- Woodstock has withdrawn from the Planning services for 25-26
- Colchester and Bozrah are leaving the Animal Control Program.
- Will be updating Pomfret POCD for them

g. Other

- Draft audits for both Transit and NECCOG have been completed, with no material weaknesses or deficiencies identified. Both organizations also saw an increase in reserves. The Director will send electronic copies to all once the audits are finalized.
- Legislative Update- Still months away from firm fiscal answers on State funding to Towns, with many variables that could impact the budget. A positive development is \$250k in annual funding for each COG to support two regional positions focused on climate resiliency, waste management, recycling, GIS, and related areas. Additionally, a proposal for a third position—funded through the Regional Incentive Fund—would support the repurposing of vacant structures into housing. This legislation has advanced through several committees and is heading for a floor vote. The pistol permit bill introduced by Rep. Pat Boyd, allowing permits in Towns without police departments to be processed by the State rather than local officials, is also progressing and has a strong chance of passing.

4. Discussion and Action Items

a. STIP Actions & Amendments- Project 0170-3640

Motion to approve as presented by Barney Seney second by Cathryn Silver-Smith.

b. Regional Referrals

- i. Town of Plainfield - 13.56.6 Zoning Regulations to allow for billboards along I-395. The proposal would only allow for billboards within 2,000 feet of an exit.

Motion to approve as presented by Barney Seney second by Chandler Paquette.

c. Other Agenda Items (requires 2/3 vote)

5. CEO Roundtable

- Towns are considering putting out a bid for bulk fuel.
- Strategic Plans

- Frustrations have been expressed over the lack of support from DOT regarding road signage and assistance with accident prevention efforts.

6. Adjourn- 10:27

Motion made Chris Lippke second by Barney Seney.