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Chester, Clinton, Cromwell,
Deep River, Durham, East Haddam,
East Hampton, Essex, Haddam,
Killingworth, Lyme, Middlefield,
Middletown, Old Lyme,
Old Saybrook, Portland, Westbrook

LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Monday, July 31, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Cromwell Town Hall, Room 222, 41 West Street,
Cromwell, Connecticut

Members:

Chester:	Vacancy
Clinton:	Alan Kravitz * Vacancy
Cromwell:	Alice Kelly * Chris Cambareri *
Deep River:	Bruce Edgerton * Tony Bolduc *
Durham:	Frank DeFelice * Joe Pasquale
East Haddam:	Crary Brownell Lou Salicrup
East Hampton:	Michael Kowalczyk * Vacancy
Essex:	Alan Kerr Vacancy
Haddam:	Stasia DeMichele Raul deBrigard
Killingworth:	Stephanie Warren * Alec Martin *
Lyme:	Vacancy
Middlefield:	Robert Johnson * Vacancy
Middletown:	Beth Emery * Vacancy
Old Lyme:	Harold Thompson Vacancy
Old Saybrook:	Kenneth Soudan Karen Jo Marcolini
Portland:	Dan Bourret * Vacancy
Westbrook:	Bill Neale * Marie Farrell *

* Members Present

Staff Present:

Sam Gold
Judy Snyder
Torrance Downes
Jon Curtis

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / SEATING OF ALTERNATES

Chairman DeFelice called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The members introduced themselves and attendance was taken.

2. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA / APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Alice Kelly asked that the agenda be amended to include "Discussion of Survey".

Upon motion of Alice Kelly, seconded by Bill Neale, it was unanimously voted to approve the agenda, as amended.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Frank DeFelice asked if anyone from the public wished to speak. There was no one at this time.

4. REFERRAL

Town of Old Lyme, POCD Update

Torrance Downes stated that in the next few months the RPC will receive three PoCDs update to review from the towns of Old Lyme, Haddam and Fenwick.

Jon Curtis presented the Old Lyme proposal to update the shoreline erosion and sea level rise in that section of the POCD. The regulations state that structures in the beach zone, at a minimum, need to be 1' above sea level rise. Due to this regulation property owners need to submit an application to the Zoning Board of Appeals to make structures flood compliant. The proposed amendment to the town's POCD would allow property owners to elevate structures without ZBA approval as long as it complies with FEMA regulations.

Upon motion of Bill Neale, seconded by Beth Emery, it was voted to notify the town of Old Lyme that this proposal will not have intermunicipal impact.

Torrance Downes will write a letter to the Old Lyme Planning Commission.

5. REGIONAL POCD

a. Discussion of Updates Culture, Built Environment, and Agriculture Sections

Jon Curtis spoke about the draft section "Culture and History" and asked the members for comments. Frank DeFelice suggested that Mr. Curtis make a spreadsheet incorporating sections, with comments, and checked off when completed.

Beth Emery asked about the Gateway Commission and Silvio Conte land preservation. Margot Burns will present the “Natural Environment” section and address land preservation in the region.

Stephanie Warren mentioned that larger towns were divided into small towns, such as Killingworth and Clinton, because of the distance to the churches. Early settlers were not able to and did not want to travel long distances, especially in the winter, to go to church. Therefore many towns were divided into smaller towns to accommodate shorter trips to the churches.

Alan Kravitz recommended a book “WPA - Writers Project Guide to CT” and the quality of life that we enjoy living in the region.

Alice Kelly thought that a short introduction to the history of the region was appropriate but the Plan should be looking forward to where we are or could be going. Sam Gold said that this is not going to be history book but will address how our region came to be.

Frank DeFelice stated that once the draft Plan is complete then editing will begin and redundancies will be deleted.

In reviewing the Agriculture section Beth Emery stated that the table was difficult to read. The members agreed that the columns with the years should be reversed on the table with the latest year on the right side. PA490 was discussed and Mr. Gold stated that it is a tax benefit for those who qualify. Frank DeFelice said that towns with several parcels of 490 designated land will see a decline in the town revenue. Marie Farrell asked if the Agricultural Council would review this section. Jon Curtis said that Janice Ehle/Meyer will distribute a survey to the farmers in the region. Frank DeFelice felt that all the farms should be listed in the PoCD. Dan Bourret had created a farm parcel map for the Durham Plan. Alice Kelly stated that in the RPC May 22nd minutes it says that the Agricultural Council would search other towns for Farm and Agriculture regulations. Different types of farms, wineries, and a definition of agricultural goods was discussed.

Jon Curtis will present the Built Environmental section next month.

b. Discussion about pop-up events and other promotion

Jon Curtis said that there have been 3 pop-ups so far with more planned. He said that the “spin the wheel” is popular with children but not with the adults. He found that the best way to involve people is to walk around, handout the cards and talk about what we are doing and explain what the PoCD is. Frank DeFelice asked the members to volunteer and participate in the pop-ups and the workshops. Mr. Curtis stated that he has received 60 surveys. Mr. DeFelice thought that more than 60 should have been received. Alice Kelly asked if people know who we are. Torrance Downes said that lots of people don’t know who we are or what a PoCD is. He explains the differences between the town PoCD and a regional PoCD and asked them to complete a survey.

Bob Johnson said that activities at Lyman Farms would be a good place to hand out cards and talk to people. The sunflower maze and the corn maze are coming up. Mr. Johnson will ask Lyman Farms for permission for a pop-up event.

Sam Gold said he had met with the Beach Association last week and explained the process to them. Mr. Gold also said that he had spoken to a local reporter and an article will be in the Harbor News and press

releases have been sent. Marie Farrell suggested letter to the editors and Jon Curtis said that the cards will be distributed at the upcoming household hazardous waste collections and paper shredding events.

c. Discussion about Kickoff Meetings

Sam Gold said that the kickoff workshop will be in Westbrook Town Hall, August 17th at 6:00 p.m. The format will be to pick out three topics and form small breakout groups for discussion. Frank DeFelice asked if FHI had been in contact. Mr. Curtis said no, we haven't received anything after the meeting with them last week. Mr. DeFelice asked Mr. Curtis to e-mail the information to the members when he receives it. Sam Gold said that after this workshop staff will review and make recommendations/improvements before the Wesleyan workshop. Beth Emery felt that getting the word out was most important. Mr. Gold stated that there is a ZOOP meeting scheduled for August 3rd at the RiverCOG. Michael Kowalczyk said that in other workshops he has been involved in interactive boards worked very well. An example is to enlarged a map of the region and ask people to put a colored sticker showing where they live and work.

d. Discussion of Survey

Frank DeFelice asked how the members liked the surveys. Jon Curtis said that the 1st survey will be up on the website until August 17th and then the 2nd survey will be put up. The 1st survey will continue to be used for the remainder of the pop-up events. The 2nd survey will be sent to the members again for their review. Sam Gold said that August 9th will be the cutoff date for comments and silence is consent.

6. APPROVAL OF JUNE 26, 2017 MINUTES

Upon motion of Alice Kelly, seconded by Beth Emery, it was voted to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2017 meeting.

Alan Kravitz and Chris Cambareri abstained from voting.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

Sam Gold said that the Middletown Area Transit (MAT) has a temporary director/administrator and the '16 audit is being completed. For now the bus service routes will remain the same and nothing will be shutting down. He said possibly MAT and the 9 Town Transit could combine some of their maintenance and services together to reduce the cost of operating the districts.

Mr. Gold stated that the town of Old Lyme received the announcement that the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) decision was in the town's favor. The area between New Haven and Providence was made a study area to be determined by the States of Connecticut and Rhode Island with support from the FRA to determine where the tracks would go.

Sam Gold said that after weeks of negotiations terms of the rental agreement could not be reached with the owner of the property on Island Dock Road in Haddam. Mr. Gold spoke to our landlord at 145 Dennison Road, Essex and an agreement was reached to lease the current office space for the next 12 months.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Alan Kravitz, seconded by Bill Neale, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Snyder
Recording Secretary

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