



Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments

145 Dennison Road Essex, CT 06426 | +1 860 581 8554 | www.rivercog.org

Regional Planning Committee

LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Monday, March 25, 2019 - 7:00 pm

Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments conference room

145 Dennison Road, Essex

Members:

Chester: Vacancy
Clinton: Alan Kravitz *
Eric Bergman
Cromwell: Chris Cambareri
Deep River: Bruce Edgerton
Tony Bolduc *
Durham: Frank DeFelice*
Joe Pasquale
East Haddam: Crary Brownell
Lou Salicrup
East Hampton: Michael Kowalczyk *
Essex: Alan Kerr *
Sandra Childress *
Haddam: Raul deBrigard
Stasia DeMichele
Killingworth: Stephanie Warren *
Alec Martin
Lyme: Mary Stone *
Middlefield: Vacancy
Middletown: Beth Emery *
Stephen Devoto
Old Lyme: Harold Thompson
Old Saybrook: Kenneth Soudan *
Karen Jo Marcolini
Portland: Elwin Guild *
Westbrook: Bill Neale *
Marie Farrell

*Members Present

Staff Present:

Sam Gold
Eliza LoPresti
Robert Haramut

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman DeFelice at 7:00 pm.

RiverRPC

2. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Eliza LoPresti

3. Seating of Alternates

Stephanie Warren of Killingworth and Tony Bolduc of Deep River were seated.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Kravitz moved to adopt the agenda. Second by Ms. Childress; voted unanimously in favor.

5. Presentation of and Public Comment Session for Draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Mr. Haramut gave a presentation on the draft of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Discussion was held and questions were answered. Comments include the following:

Mary Stone commented that though it is not currently in Lyme's POCD, an aging population is projected for that town which will bring about the need for public transportation.

Beth Emery had a few comments that she will be emailing to Mr. Haramut. During the meeting she discussed that the plan refers to recreational things like hiking. She asked why something like that, which is not technically transportation, is part of the document and why other recreation types (like kayaking as a form of river usage) are not included. Mr. Gold noted that one of the planning factors is tourism so it could be included. This led to a discussion on transportation vs. recreation, with Mr. Soudan suggesting that access to recreation could be included, in the form of funds to expand parking areas at trailheads or boat launches or roads to recreation areas.

Ms. Emery also suggested including a point on the security, safety, lighting and visibility in the park & ride lots; particularly the use of cameras and regular safety assessments.

Frank DeFelice asked about the section on motorcycle safety and whether it is a replication of the state plan. Mr. Haramut confirmed that it is the state plan and it needs to be put in there in that manner as the plan needs to support the state efforts.

There was a discussion about where the recommendation ended up for the safety study on Route 9. It should go on page 75 above "other topics" in section I.

There was a discussion on roundabouts and the need for driver education for them. Elwin Guild will email a comment to Mr. Haramut regarding.

Ms. Stone commented that Lyme residents would like more accommodation made for bicycles on local roads. This was discussed in relation to possible lane narrowing which typically occurs when re-paving.

There was a discussion on guard rail replacement. Chairman DeFelice will send Mr. Haramut photos of new guard rails placed in front of existing guard rails, therefore narrowing the shoulder.

6. Approval of Minutes of Past Meetings

Mr. Neale moved to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2019 meeting as corrected due to a misspelled name; second by Mr. Bolduc. Vote was unanimous in favor with the following abstentions: Ms. Stone, Ms. Warren and Mr. Soudan.

7. Regional Plan

a) Built Environment Chapter: Jon Curtis has not been feeling well and has been out of the office.

RiverRPC

This chapter is almost ready for the RPC to read it but was not available for this meeting. Mr. Gold will keep everyone posted on his progress and make sure the chapter is sent out as soon as possible.

b) Other Sections: Will be forthcoming

8. Referrals

None

9. Miscellaneous: State, Regional and /or Local Planning Issues

Mr. Gold stated that the town of Clinton and other towns in the region are struggling to hire qualified land-use officials. Discussion occurred on how RiverCOG can help.

Mr. Gold outlined pending legislation of interest and discussed the content of his submitted testimony. The packet of testimony is included with these minutes. Bills on school regionalization, state-wide property tax, regional assessors/PSAP, COG county equivalency, and tolls were discussed. The committee suggested that a bullet be included in the MTP discussing the points of concern (to include losing federal funding only to replace it with funding from the state’s citizens, the concerns of lower paid workers that use their vehicles as part of their jobs, and workers that cannot change their schedules or routes to avoid tolling).

Chair DeFelice read an email from Cromwell representative, Alice Kelly. In it, she states that she is stepping down as the regular member.

10. Adjourn

At 8:48 P.M., Ms. Warren moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Stone seconded. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eliza LoPresti