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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
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

Monday, March 26, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.

Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments Conference Room
145 Dennison Road

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
	Sandra Childress *
Haddam:	Stasia DeMichele
	Raul deBrigard
Killingworth:	Stephanie Warren *
	Alec Martin *
Lyme:	Mary Stone *
Middlefield:	Vacancy
Middletown:	Beth Emery
	Vacancy
Old Lyme:	Harold Thompson
	Vacancy
Old Saybrook:	Kenneth Soudan *
	Karen Jo Marcolini
Portland:	Dan Bourret
	Elwin Guild *
Westbrook:	Bill Neale *
	Marie Farrell

* Members Present

Staff Present:

Sam Gold, AICP
Judy Snyder
Torrance Downes

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

Chairman Frank DeFelice called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The members introduced themselves and attendance was taken.

2. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA / APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Upon motion of Alan Kravitz, seconded by Bruce Edgerton the agenda was approved as presented.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Frank DeFelice asked if anyone from the public wished to speak. Judy Snyder announced that she will be retiring as of April 5th. Mr. DeFelice thanked her for service to the Committee.

Mr. DeFelice introduced Elwin Guild the newest member of the RPC representing Portland.

4. REFERRAL - Portland: Referral for petition to adopt regulations which will add “Medical Marijuana Dispensary Facility” to the table of permitted uses in the B-2 Business District

Torrance Downes presented the Portland referral to the members saying that the request is for a medical marijuana dispensary, but if the state approves the legalization of marijuana this could become a retail store. Elwin Guild pointed to the location of the proposed dispensary and stated that the proximity to the center of Portland and the increase in traffic would not work well with the town. The members discussed that the zoning of medical dispensaries should be similar to package stores and adult entertainment establishments.

Upon motion of Bill Neale, seconded by Bruce Edgerton, it was unanimously voted to notify the town of the Portland that the referral to allow medical marijuana dispensary facility in the B-2 business district will not have an intermunicipal impact on the abutting town.

5. REGIONAL POCD FULL SURVEY ANALYSIS DISCUSSION SURVEY CLOSED 1/3/18, 139 RESPONDENTS and 6. POCD SCHEDULE DISCUSSION

Frank DeFelice asked where are we now? He stated that he has met with COG staff to determine what sections were partly completed and which sections need to be worked on. Sam Gold distributed a table of contents and this was discussed.

Frank DeFelice said the natural environment section is not done and Margot Burns will be working on this. Mapping is in good shape. The energy and agriculture sections need work, however the COG did receive an agriculture grant that will be utilized in this section. He said that Chapter 1, Introduction which includes purpose, statutes, RiverCOG, and resiliency is mostly completed. Along with history, that Torrance Downes has worked on is complete. The demographics section is done. The built environment has a large amount of materials and is almost completed. Sam Gold stated that the environmental infrastructure needs to be done which will include sewer, septic and water. The culture section is done. Public services have not been started. The vision section and the goals and objectives have not been started.

Frank DeFelice said that Margot Burns is putting the sections that are nearing completion together. Stephanie Warren asked if there would be photos in the Plan. Mr. Gold stated there will be several and every town will be represented.

Frank DeFelice stated that there were two surveys and a survey monkey that were available for the public to fill out. Torrance Downes showed the results in a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. DeFelice asked the members to review their town's results to see if they had any questions. Mr. Downes spoke about the workshops, in particular the workshop at Wesleyan University where the catch phrases "branding" and "cool place" were discussed. The members felt that bringing younger people into the region and staying is key to a growing economy. The surveys showed that young adults want more retail stores and restaurants in the area.

7. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, SAM GOLD, AICP

Sam Gold discussed some of the legislative bills that are of interest for the region. Fair and affordable housing; the possibility of tolls coming back to the state; bonding for bikeways, greenways and recreational trails; regional financing options and collective bargaining to allow for the regionalization of shared services. Members discussed how difficult it is to speak on the bills at the legislature.

8. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 22, 2018 MINUTES

Upon motion of Bill Neale, seconded by Alan Kravitz, it was unanimously voted to approve the LCRVRPC minutes of the February 22, 2018 meeting.

Elwin Guild abstained from voting.

9. MISCELLANEOUS

Sam Gold spoke about the transit districts and the difficulties these services will have once funding is cut. Shore Line East will cut services with no weekend service and cuts to the weekday service will adversely affect ridership. Mr. Gold said that a cut to bus service is also likely, however the state bus service is treated differently and services will not be cut. Alec Martin asked that issues of interest be forwarded to the members.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Mary Stone, seconded by Bruce Edgerton, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Snyder
Recording Secretary

N:\Agendas Minutes 2018\LCRVRPC\LCRVRPC 3.26.18 approved minutes