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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, September 24, 2018 - 7:00 pm

Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments conference room
145 Dennison Road, Essex

Members:

Chester: Vacancy
Clinton: Alan Kravitz
Cromwell: Alice Kelly
Chris Cambareri
Deep River: Bruce Edgerton
Tony Bolduc*
Durham: Frank DeFelice*
Joe Pasquale
East Haddam: Cary Brownell
Lou Salicrup
East Hampton: Michael Kowalczyk*
Essex: Alan Kerr
Sandra Childress*
Haddam: Stasia DeMichele
Raul deBrigard*
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:

Torrance Downes
Eliza LoPresti
Robert Haramut

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman DeFelice at 7:02 pm.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Eliza LoPresti

3. Seating of Alternates

The following Alternate Members were seated: Sandra Childress, Essex; Karen Jo Marcolini; Old Saybrook, Marie Farrell; Westbrook; Tony Bolduc, Deep River.

4. Amendments to Agenda

Mr. deBrigard moved to amend the agenda to add item 7a – Discussion on the Regional Plan of Conservation & Development. Mr. Guild seconded; all voted in favor.

5. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved during item 4

6. Public Comments

None

7. Referrals

None

7a. Discussion on the Regional Plan of Conservation & Development

Torrance Downes read an update from John McDonald, who has been working on the RPOCD during Jon Curtis's medical leave. He has been revising the text of the agriculture chapter and updating that section with data from the most recent censuses of agriculture and the RiverCOG Farmer's Survey of Jan. 2018. He has completed a draft of the industrial land uses in the area, and is hoping to progress to residential land use soon but needs the help of Dan Bourret, GIS Coordinator. Mr. Downes and Mr. Bourret have been busy working as interim ZEOs for Westbrook and now Clinton. Lastly, Mr. McDonald revised the section of the plan discussing population change with updated data.

8. Long-Range Transportation Plan Discussion

Rob Haramut gave a presentation on the LRTP, which is now called the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The plan will be updated for 2019. The update occurs every 4 years, though it encompasses a 25 year planning horizon. Mr. Haramut's presentation will be filed with these minutes. Mr. Haramut then answered questions from RPC members, a summary of which is below.

This plan is regional, and includes federal guidelines distilled through the state and agreed upon by the state and the regional MPOs. The plan includes projects of the state/MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which are the short term projects associated with the long term plan.

There was discussion of one of the factors that needs to be addressed in the plan, "emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system". This was meant as a goal toward making sure the existing systems don't fall into a state of disrepair, not "preservation" as we would normally think of it, with the connotations of architectural or historical preservation.

There was discussion on quantifying measures for traffic and/or road deterioration, especially as related to traffic congestion and number of cars on the road. Congestion is a measure included

in the report, and it was suggested that the number of cars registered in each town be included in the demographics chapter of the report.

Trouble areas are identified by the towns, the transit districts and the Chamber of Commerce (which make up the MPO for our region), resulting in a wish list of projects. The RPC will take a look at the list of projects and give suggestions of other possible projects if necessary.

The corridor study that is occurring on Route 66 (Portland/East Hampton) was discussed. Right now that project is in the existing conditions state so there are not yet recommendations included in the MTP. Mr. Guild discussed the study and how it will come into play with a new mixed-use development that is proposed near the Arrigoni Bridge. There was discussion on the bridge and identifying projects and alternatives to the current entrances in Portland and Middletown as DOT will be there working on the abutments on both sides in the spring.

Going back to the discussion on the factor of “emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system”, it was suggested that the word “preservation” be changed to “maintenance”, but changing the wording is not possible since these are federal requirements as stated by the federal government. This was related to a discussion of making transportation alternatives work with the town as they exist. It was suggested that there be a specific statement on the need to preserve towns as they exist within the report. This could be addressed under factor 5 which includes “addressing the quality of life”. Mr. Downes will craft verbiage for an approach to this issue in the report.

Some members suggested addition of lighting along Route 9 for safety. Mr. Haramut will bring it up to CT DOT. There was discussion on possible changes to the area on Route 9 with the traffic signals; no plan has been adopted for this yet.

There was a question about addition of exits on 95 in the Old Saybrook area near Elm St. and Ingham Hill. Bridge inspections were discussed; there is a list and timeline in the report. Funding sources for projects that towns request assistance with were also discussed.

9. Approval of Minutes – June 25, 2018

Upon motion of Mr. deBrigard and second of Mr. Bolduc, the minutes of the June 25, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously. Ms. Marcolini abstained from voting.

10. Miscellaneous

Chairman DeFelice gave an update on the farm event regulations proposed for Durham. He stated the P&Z commission has a few vocal opponents, but they largely have the support of the public and numerous farmers throughout the town. At their next meeting they will conduct a workshop about this, and will be adding the state’s definition of agriculture into the proposed regulations. A farm property’s tax and use certificate will be required for the special permit application. They need to find a way to allow for the new endeavors as well, which will probably be a site plan/walkthrough. This proposal is still in the public hearing phase. There is no periodic review once the special permit is granted for the property.

11. Adjournment

At 8:20 p.m., Ms. Stone moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Farrell seconded. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eliza LoPresti