



Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments

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Regional Planning Committee

LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, April 26, 2021 – 7:00 pm

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Members:

Chester	Mike Sanders Cindy Lignar *
Clinton	Alan Kravitz * Martin Jaffe
Cromwell	Nick Demetriades * Anthony LaCava *
Deep River	Bruce Edgerton Tony Bolduc
Durham	Frank DeFelice *
East Haddam	Crary Brownell Lou Salicrup
East Hampton	Michael Kowalczyk *
Essex	Jane Siris * Sandra Childress *
Haddam	Raul deBrigard * Maurice Adams *
Killingworth	Alec Martin * Stephanie Warren *
Lyme	Mary Stone * Humphrey Tyler
Middlefield	Paul Pizzo
Middletown	Beth Emery * Kellin Atherton *
Old Lyme	Harold Thompson
Old Saybrook	Douglas McCracken * Karen Jo Marcolini
Portland	Mary Dickerson *
Westbrook	Bill Neale * Marie Farrell

*Members Present

Staff Present:

Sam Gold
Megan Jouflas
Margot Burns
Kevin Armstrong

RiverRPC

Eliza LoPresti
 Torrance Downes
 Rob Haramut
 Janice Ehle/Meyer

Guests: Around 50 members of the public attended this meeting

1. Call to Order

Chairman DeFelice called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

2. Roll Call

Eliza LoPresti called the roll

3. Seating of Alternates – Cindy Lignar of Chester and Stephanie Warren of Killingworth were seated (Alec Martin of Killingworth joined the meeting a few minutes later)

4. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Neale moved to adopt the agenda; second by Ms. Emery. Vote was unanimous in favor.

5. Public Comment – None

6. Approval of the Minutes of March 31, 2021 Regular Meeting

Ms. Emery moved to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2021 regular meeting; second by Mr. Neale. Vote was unanimous in favor.

7. Introduction Meeting for the draft Regional Plan of Conservation & Development

Mr. Gold gave the introductory presentation on the RPOCD and went through how to submit comments. This evening begins the 65-day public comment period for the plan, which runs to June 30, 2021. There will be a public hearing on the plan that date. The public presentation can be viewed at this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/6yg63c0r6gznmju/04.26.21%20RPC%20RPOCD%20Meeting%20Vid.mp4?dl=0>

8. Referrals – Update from Torrance

There are no current referrals to discuss. Mr. Downes mentioned an upcoming referral from Portland anticipated for the May meeting.

9. Miscellaneous: State, Regional and/or Local Planning Issues – Report on Legislative Issues from Sam Gold

The Governor has released his plan for American Rescue Plan funds that CT is receiving, which includes investment in a statewide GIS (mapping) layer. This legislative session has included a number of bills with planning impacts, many of which are focused on affordable housing. Excellent RiverCOG intern Ben Lovejoy is tracking the bills. One particular bill being watched is the Desegregate CT bill (1024) encourages multi-family housing but removes some of the by-right uses.

Ms. Siris suggested getting the plan out as widely as possible to stakeholders in the region including community organization and news outlets.

RiverRPC

Kate Anderson, member of the public, suggested a template email be sent out including links to the draft plan, to the comment form and to the public hearing Zoom call for June 30.

Mr. deBrigard asked that the RPC could obtain comments made on the plan before the next RPC meeting. He also noted that he and others would like to see any comments from the State.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Neale moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 pm; second by Mr. Kowalczyk. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eliza LoPresti