**Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments**

**and Lower Connecticut River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization**

**DRAFT MINUTES OF REGIONAL HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Tuesday, May 28, 2024 – 2:00 PM

**Members & Alternates Present:** Pat Bandzes (Chester), Bonnie Bennet (Chester), Abby Piersall (Clinton), Daniel Smith (Deep River), Thomas Pinkowish (Essex), Jim Irish (Middlefield), Marek Kozikowski (Middletown), Dan Bourret (Portland), Eric Salmon (Westbrook)

**Others Present:** John Guzkowski (Tyche Planning), Ben Lovejoy (CT Dept. of Housing), Bill Neale (Westbrook), Delia Fey (NECCOG), Karla Lindquist (HOPE Partnership), Laura Watson (CT DOH), Connor Quinlan (CT DOH)

**RiverCOG Staff Present:** Megan Jouflas,Eliza LoPresti, Susie Beckman, Marcos Gonzalez, Sam Gold, Margot Burns, Kevin Armstrong

**Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Bandzes at 2:03 p.m. The meeting was held via Zoom video conference.

**Approval of Minutes of April 23, 2024 Meeting**

*Mr. Smith moved to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2024 meeting; second by Mr. Pinkowish. Vote was unanimous in favor.*

**Review & Approval of Agenda**

Consensus was that the agenda is approved.

**Discussion with Department of Housing – Ben Lovejoy**

Mr. Lovejoy gave a presentation about the new technical assistance program that CT DOH has started and which is available to municipalities to assist with implementing 8-30j plans. His slides and documents about the program can be found [here](https://rivercogct.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/RiverCOG/EgpmVnT0kelHsG_Mb_EDxScBmJf8JcV2nwfjQaNMzXIFiQ?e=iyZUV5).

**Summary of HB 5474 (Passed Housing Bill)**

Ms. Jouflas created a summary of the newly passed bill which can be found [here](https://rivercogct.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/RiverCOG/ET7kY-6RjrZAgbGUJdbn54cBjlne-AjJDcx1gdiT5qmECA?e=N6FIyR).

**Data Dashboard**

Mr. Armstrong displayed the new data dashboard which can be found at [www.rivercog.org/data](http://www.rivercog.org/data). The information on the site is from census data.

**Upcoming Meetings and Agenda Items**

1. **June Methodology Workshop:** Ms. Jouflas explained that the June meeting will be an in-person, interactive workshop to help inform inputs for the regional housing needs assessment.

**Updates From Members**

Chester is forming an Affordable Housing Committee.

**Adjournment**

*Mr. Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:08 PM; second by Mr. Salmon. Vote was unanimous in favor.*

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza LoPresti