**Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments**

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

**DRAFT MINUTES OF REGIONAL HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 – 2:00 PM

**Members & Alternates Present:** Pat Bandzes &Bonnie Bennet (Chester), Daniel Smith (Deep River), Thomas Pinkowish & Carey Duques (Essex), Richard Pleines (Killingworth), David Lahm (Lyme), Marek Kozikowski (Middletown), Kathleen Sugland (Old Saybrook), Eric Salmon (Westbrook)

**Others Present:** Ben Lovejoy (CT Dept. of Housing), Julie Way (Congressman Courtney’s Office), Phillip Shattuck (CT OPM), Karla Lindquist (HOPE Partnership), Michael Fogliano (Old Lyme AH), Fred Williamson (Essex)

**RiverCOG Staff Present:** Eliza LoPresti, Susie Beckman, Kevin Armstrong, Megan Jouflas, Elizabeth Rolison

**Call To Order**

Acting Chairperson Pat Bandzes called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm. There was no quorum.

**Approval of Minutes of August 27, 2024, September 24, 2024, October 22, 2024 Meetings & December 17, 2024**

No quorum to approve minutes

**Priority Survey Results**

Megan reviewed the results of the survey that was sent to the committee members asking about priorities for the upcoming year.

Public engagement was discussed as it was a topic that members want to learn more about and/or receive materials from the region. Things that members mentioned are:

* Basic education that can be shared within communities
  + Handouts and items that can be posted on websites
  + Public information sessions
  + Regional webpage as a resource
  + Short educational videos
* Data
  + Demographics
  + What do people in town make ($)?
  + What is “affordable”?
* Modeling
* Topics
  + why do we need housing
  + traffic

Model regulations was also a top answer on the priority survey. Discussion points included:

* + Best practices overview, then go topic by topic so they can learn what regulation to tackle first
  + Present to P&Zs

**8-30j Goals and Objectives**

The towns’ goals and objectives from their 8-30j plans were put into one spreadsheet with a tab for each town. These are intended to show each town how far they have come toward their stated goals, and to see what goals towns have in common and could use help with. Eliza will email these out to everyone and is asking for them to be filled out before the February meeting.

**RHNA Update**

The RHNA was unanimously endorsed by the COG members at their January 2025 meeting. There will be a public workshop on the RHNA at some point in the future to include P&Z Chairs, planners and COG members.

**Other**

OPM will be sharing a draft of the Fair Share report shortly.

Killingworth is looking at a 10 acre parcel to develop a 55+ housing development.

**Adjournment**

*The meeting ended at 2:55 PM.*

Respectfully submitted, Eliza LoPresti