**Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments**

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

**DRAFT MINUTES OF REGIONAL HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Tuesday, February 25, 2025 – 2:00 PM

**Members & Alternates Present:** Pat Bandzes (Chester), Abby Piersall (Clinton), Daniel Smith (Deep River), Juliet Hodge (East Hampton), Thomas Pinkowish & Carey Duques (Essex), David Lahm (Lyme), Marek Kozikowski (Middletown), Dan Bourret (Portland), Eric Salmon (Westbrook)

**Others Present:** Ben Lovejoy (CT Dept. of Housing), Julie Way (Congressman Courtney’s Office), Karla Lindquist (HOPE Partnership), Michael Fogliano (Old Lyme AH), Bill Neale (Westbrook)

**RiverCOG Staff Present:** Eliza LoPresti, Kevin Armstrong, Megan Jouflas

**Call To Order**

Acting Chairperson Pat Bandzes called the meeting to order at 2:06 pm. There was no quorum.

**Approval of Minutes of August 27, 2024, September 24, 2024, October 22, 2024, December 17, 2024, & January 28, 2025 Meetings**

*David Lahm moved to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2024, September 24, 2024, October 22, 2024, December 17, 2024, & January 28, 2025 Meetings; second by Daniel Smith. Vote was unanimously approved.*

**Update on State HNA & Discussion of Differences from RiverCOG Approach**

Megan gave a presentation on this topic; the slide deck can be found [here](https://rivercogct.sharepoint.com/:p:/s/RiverCOG/EeuVyXJWF1BBnfolDPVesB4B0yvgR1vrQ87MqzBOBLF2_w?e=XWgcEQ). The presentation can be viewed [here](https://youtu.be/ki0uWRQkdt8?si=i2Xs3hdJGk0k2-ha), beginning at 3:48.

**8-30j Goals and Objectives**

Eliza reminded all to fill out the spreadsheet showing where each town is with their goals and objectives from the 8-30j plan. Analysis will be performed on the answers and discussion on this will occur at the March meeting.

**Update on Public Engagement Planning**

Megan explained the forthcoming grant from CT DOH to create tools for municipalities to use in public engagement on housing issues. Work will most likely begin in May 2025.

**Legislative Update**

Eliza shared the [bill tracker](https://rivercogct.sharepoint.com/:x:/s/RiverCOG/EdkPyR2AK2xMtE31TlxHngYBERM7UA78Fv_cWDhWs6iHnA?e=3IqXsA) and explained the premise of some of the housing bills that will be coming up for public hearing shortly.

**Other**

None

**Adjournment**

*Juliet Hodge moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:11 pm, second by Pat Bandzes. Vote was unanimously approved.*

Respectfully submitted, Eliza LoPresti