

**MINUTES****Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley**

Jesse Camille's Restaurant

615 North Church Street

Naugatuck, CT 06770

12:00 Noon, Friday, March 15, 2013

COGCVN Members: Jerry Smith, First Selectman, Beacon Falls; Jeff Hamel, First Selectman, Bethlehem; Jerry Sitko, Alternate, Cheshire; Ed St. John, First Selectman, Joe Salvini, Alternate, Middlebury; Ed Carter, Alternate, Naugatuck; Joanne Pelton, Alternate, Oxford; Tom Galvin, Alternate, Prospect; Tom Crowe, Alternate, Southbury; Ron Pugliese, Alternate, Waterbury; Ray Primini, Town Council Chairman, Watertown; Darlene Tynan, Alternate, Wolcott; Jerry Stomski, First Selectman, Woodbury.

Speakers and Guests: John DiCarlo, Waterbury Regional Chamber; Lou Mangini, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro's Office; Edgar Wynkoop, CTDOT.

Staff: Peter Dorpalen, Executive Director; Samuel Gold, Assistant Director; Joe Perrelli, Senior Planner; Pat Gallagher, Regional Planner; Glenda Prentiss, GIS Coordinator; Trish Bauer, Financial Manager; Aaron Budris, GIS Planning Assistant.

1. Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, Public Comment

Vice Chairman Jeff Hamel called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the roll was called. There was no public comment.

2. Administrative Items

- a. *Minutes of the February 15, 2013 Meeting* — On a motion by Jerry Stomski, seconded by Ed Carter, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the February 15, 2013 meeting.

- b. *Financial Report* — Peter Dorpalen reported that as of February 28, 2013, COGCVN was 67% through the fiscal year and had expended 61% of its operating budget. Including pass-through funds, 59% of the total budget has been expended. On a motion by Jerry Smith, seconded by Ed Carter, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the financial report.

- c. *Correspondence* — Peter Dorpalen said a staff level analysis of House Bill 6542 in support of preserving farmland at the Southbury Training School had been transmitted to Representative O'Neill stating that the bill was in conformance with COGCVN's Regional Plan of Conservation and Development.

3. **Transportation Planning**

- a. *Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment* — Joe Perrelli summarized the March 2013 amendment to the 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program as listed in Memorandum 030113. On a motion by Ron Pugliese, seconded by Tom Galvin, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the March 2013 amendment to the 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program listed in Memorandum 030113.

- b. *CTDOT Proposed Local Road Capital Improvement Program* — Peter Dorpalen said CTDOT is proposing to eliminate the urban surface transportation program to fund major local roads projects in towns, and to use those funds for state projects. In return CTDOT would substitute state bond money for what has traditionally been urban STP highway projects. Rather than working with CTDOT on these projects, the towns would be handling the projects on their own. This proposal is still in the early planning stages. Jerry Stomski raised a concern over the proposed change.

4. **Project Support Requests**

On a motion by Ron Pugliese, seconded by Tom Galvin, it was unanimously

VOTED: To add Item 4.a.v, Waterbury – Fulton Park Walking Paths to the agenda.

- a. *National Recreational Trails Program* — Samuel Gold said COGCNV received five requests for support for applications to the National Recreational Trails grant program. The RTP is a federal grant funded by the gas tax that can be used for trail construction, design, and education. The competitive grant is a reimbursement grant that covers 80% of costs. Applications are solicited by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. COGCNV staff reviewed the grant proposals and found them to be in conformity with the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development. The five projects are:
 - i. Borough of Naugatuck – Naugatuck River Greenway Engineering Study
 - ii. Towns of Thomaston and Watertown – Naugatuck River Greenway Trailhead and Preliminary Engineering
 - iii. Town of Woodbury – Woodbury Reservoir Property
 - iv. Town of Cheshire – Farmington Canal Trail Extension
 - v. City of Waterbury – Restoration of Fulton Park Walking Paths

On a motion by Ron Pugliese, seconded by Jerry Stomski, it was unanimously

VOTED: To support the five 2013 National Recreational Trails Grant Applications as outlined in Memorandum 031413.

- b. *Small Cities Project Applications* — Peter Dorpalen said COGCNV received applications from Beacon Falls, Bethlehem, and Southbury. The three project are:
 - I. Beacon Falls – Housing Rehabilitation Program
 - ii. Bethlehem – Energy Efficiency Upgrades at North Purchase Elderly Housing
 - iii. Southbury – Housing Rehabilitation Program

On a motion by Jerry Stomski, seconded by Ron Pugliese, it was unanimously

VOTED: To support the Small Cities project applications of Beacon Falls, Bethlehem, and Southbury.

5. OPM Regional Planning Organization Boundary Study — COGCNV Evaluation

A bill (H.B. 6629) has been raised in the Planning and Development Committee that would convert all regional planning organizations to councils of governments with counties as their boundaries. This would split the COGCNV region between New Haven and Litchfield Counties. Towns on the county border have the option of switching to the other county if they wish. The conversion would take effect by January 1, 2015.

Those assembled discussed this topic. Bethlehem and Woodbury believe their towns are best served by remaining as part of a region with Waterbury as its hub.

Peter Dorpalen said there is an existing act that requires the Office of Policy and Management to conduct a regional boundary study. The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities asked each region to do an self-evaluation of the 10 criteria points OPM is assessing, a summary of which is found in the *Evaluation of Geographic Boundaries for the Central Naugatuck Valley Region* report prepared by Regional Planner Pat Gallagher. Mr. Dorpalen feels the existing bill would diminish the Greater Waterbury area.

Ed St. John felt that Middlebury and other area towns are best served by keeping COGCNV's existing composition and suggested the Waterbury legislators be contacted to provide support.

John DiCarlo of the Waterbury Regional Chamber stated it is not by coincidence that the Chamber's lines are the same as COGCNV's. He does not feel it benefits area business to change boundaries.

Ron Pugliese recommended that a member of COGCNV provide testimony in Hartford concerning this bill. Peter Dorpalen said he drafted written testimony (in COGCNV meeting packet), which states what the group discussed. It was suggested that Mayor Chatfield of Prospect also be contacted to testify.

On a motion by Jerry Stomski, seconded by Ed St. John, it was unanimously

VOTED: To have Executive Director Peter Dorpalen provide testimony against reorganizing regional planning agencies along county borders as proposed in H.B. No. 6629.

Regional Planner Pat Gallagher then gave a presentation of the findings of the report *Evaluation of Geographical Boundaries for the Central Naugatuck Valley Region*. On a motion by Ron Pugliese, seconded by Tom Galvin, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the report *Evaluation of Geographical Boundaries for the Central Naugatuck Valley Region* and to submit it to CCM as COGCNV's self-evaluation analysis.

6. Regional Business

Samuel Gold said the Recreational Trails Grant application is due by the end of March.

Mr. Gold said that, for towns that are not members of the Transit District, including Southbury, the application for the state municipal grant for elderly and disabled transportation is due in April.

Lou Mangini of Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro's office said the state submitted its request to FEMA for a major disaster emergency declaration. The request covers emergency operations and snow removal for the entire length of February's snow event.

7. Other

a. *Emergency Planning* — Joe Perrelli said the CNVR public works working group met on February 26. Equipment and training needs in the DEMHS region were discussed, as well as how to acquire resources that are housed in locations throughout the region, and new procedures to track assets when they are lent out from their host towns. The group also discussed response efforts during Storm Nemo. Mutual aid was provided to a few towns in the region during the storm.

The DEMHS Region 5 steering committee met on March 11. Russell Phillips & Associates provided an update on the Region 5 long term care mutual aid plan that they are preparing under the FY 2010 grant. COGCNV staff is working on a map of long term care facilities to supplement the plan. An exercise using the plan and map is planned for April.

Also, the state is planning a statewide exercise for June 20 and 22. Details will follow.

b. *Regional Animal Shelter Study Update* — Peter Dorpalen said seven proposals for the feasibility study were received. The advisory committee met and decided upon two finalists. Interviews with these firms will most likely take place in late April.

- c. *School Security Committee Update* — Jerry Stomski said he is working with several towns and school districts to improve their security systems. The state Department of Public Safety has given towns the ability to use resources from the joint terrorism task force for infrastructure protection.
- d. *COGCNV Website* — Samuel Gold discussed possible revisions to the current COGCNV logo or moving ahead with a new one. Once the logo is finalized, work on the new website will commence.

8. Adjournment

At 1:17 p.m., on a motion by Ron Pugliese, seconded by Tom Galvin, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by

Lauren Rizzo
Administrative Assistant
for
Ed Mone
Secretary