

MINUTES
Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley
Santos Restaurant
152 Church Street
Naugatuck, CT 06770
12:00 Noon, Friday, September 14, 2012

COGCNV Members: Dominick Sorrentino, Alternate, Beacon Falls; Jeff Hamel, First Selectman, Bethlehem; Jerry Sitko, Alternate, Cheshire; Ed St. John, First Selectman, Joseph Salvini, Alternate, Middlebury; Bob Mezzo, Mayor, Naugatuck; Joanne Pelton, Alternate, Oxford; Tom Galvin, Alternate, Prospect; Ed Edelson, First Selectman, Carol Hubert, Alternate, Southbury; Ed Mone, First Selectman, Thomaston; Ron Pugliese, Alternate, Waterbury; Ray Primini, Town Council Chairman, Watertown; Jerry Stomski, First Selectman, Woodbury.

Speakers and Guests: Betsy Gara, Kathryn Dube, Council of Small Towns; Ron Thomas, CT Conference of Municipalities; Lou Mangini, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro's Office; Rich Minnick, RPC Chairman, John DiCarlo, Waterbury Regional Chamber.

General Public: Trace Zhu, Connecticut Falun Dafa Association.

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, Public Comment

Chairman Bob Mezzo called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the roll was called. Trace Zhu of the Connecticut Falun Dafa Association gave public comment concerning Chinese culture and Shen Yun Performing Arts. Shen Yun will be appearing at the Palace Theater in February 2013.

2. Administrative Items

- a. *Minutes of the August 9, 2012 Meeting* — On a motion by Ed Edelson, seconded by Tom Galvin, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the August 9, 2012 meeting.

- b. *Financial Report* — Peter Dorpalen reported that as of August 31, 2012, COGCNV was 17% through the fiscal year and had expended 15% of its operating budget. Including pass-through funds, 14% of the total budget has been expended. Municipal dues have been paid by 12 of the 13 municipalities. On a motion by Ray Primini, seconded by Ron Pugliese, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the financial report.

- c. *New Office Space Status* — Peter Dorpalen reviewed the terms of the new three year lease proposal. He recommended moving forward with lease negotiations. On a motion by Jerry Stomski, seconded by Jerry Sitko, it was unanimously

VOTED: To authorize Chairman Bob Mezzo and/or Executive Director Peter Dorpalen to move forward with lease negotiations for the proposed new office space, subject to COGCNV's attorney reviewing the lease proposal.

d. *Correspondence* — Peter Dorpalen summarized recent correspondence

August 16, 2012	Letter to CTDOT requesting that the CTDOT restore public access to the western portion of the Naugatuck State Forest
August 23, 2012	Memorandum from CTDOT notifying COGCNV that the downtown Waterbury traffic signal project was approved for \$3 million in CMAQ funding
August 24, 2012	Letter from Waterbury transmitting a STP-Urban application to conduct a Waterbury Bus Service Operation and Needs Study
August 24, 2012	Memorandum from OPM notifying COGCNV that it has been awarded a RPIP grant of \$44,500 to conduct a regional animal shelter feasibility study
August 31, 2012	Memorandums to Watertown and Wolcott from Sam Gold on transit accessible parcels
September 7, 2012	Email from Southbury transmitting a STP-Urban highway application for the rehabilitation of the River Road bridge

3. **New State Legislative Initiatives**

Betsy Gara of the Council of Small Towns provided legislative and regulatory updates. She noted a proposed microgrid grant and loan program, state police staffing standards, wind turbine regulations, the Main Street investment fund, tree trimming/maintenance polices, education work groups meetings, and development of recommendations for the 2013 government affairs agenda.

Ron Thomas of the CT Conference of Municipalities spoke about legislative issues that affect cities and towns, including elderly “aging in place” concerns, property tax reform, education, utility company proposals, and vegetation management. Also, a workshop on RPOs is being held in October.

A question and answer period followed.

4. **Transportation Planning**

- a. *Amtrak Northeast Corridor Rail Plan and Federal Railroad Administration EIS Scope* — Samuel Gold said the northeast corridor rail line runs from Washington, DC to Boston and is the busiest in the country. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is doing a high level study concerning the corridor’s future, with the focus on high-speed passenger rail. COG staff attended a meeting on the study scope in August. High-speed rail service to Waterbury could provide numerous economic, transportation, and environmental benefits to the city and the region. The Business Council of Fairfield County and the communities along the existing Amtrak northeast corridor are in opposition to a high-speed rail alignment along I-84, and their preference is for improvements to the existing rail line.

At the September meeting of the Regional Planning Commission, it was voted to recommend that COGCNV support the inclusion of a high-speed rail option, including freight rail transportation, along the I-84 corridor within the study scope of the Federal Rail Administration's Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement for the northeast corridor.

On a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Ron Pugliese, it was unanimously

VOTED: To support the inclusion of a high-speed rail option along the I-84 corridor and improvements to rail freight access into Connecticut in the study scope of the Federal Rail Administration's Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement for the northeast corridor.

- b. *Surface Transportation Program – Urban Application for River Road Bridge in Southbury* — Joe Perrelli said COGCNV staff received an application from Southbury to fund a rehabilitation project for the River Road bridge over the Pomperaug River. If approved by COGCNV, the project will be added to the ranking of projects submitted in December for the STP-Urban program. Since the project is located in the Bridgeport-Stamford Urbanized Area, it was ranked separately from the projects submitted under the STP-Urban Program for the Waterbury Urbanized Area. This road was identified in the diversion plan study for DEMHS Region 5 as an alternate route in case of an incident blocking all or part of I-84. Southbury was awarded funding for one-third of the costs through the state's Local Bridge Program. A motion is needed to add the project to COGCNV's list of priority projects for the STP-Urban program.

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

VOTED: To approve the inclusion of the River Road rehabilitation project in Southbury in the Surface Transportation Program priority list, as presented in Memorandum 090712S, for submittal to CTDOT and scheduling in the STP-Urban Program for the Bridgeport/Stamford urbanized area.

- c. *Revised Transportation Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Budget* — Peter Dorpalen said the FY2013 work program budget needs to be revised in the consultant line item in order to cover the cost of a website project. The additional funds will come from salary and overhead line items. The total amount remains the same. On a motion by Ed Edelson, seconded by Ray Primini, it was unanimously

VOTED: To increase the consultant line item in the COGCNV FY2013 UPWP budget from \$5,823 to \$34,573 and lower the salary and indirect costs line items to \$283,353 and \$382,527 respectively.

5. **OPM Regional Performance Incentive Program**

- a. *Regional Animal Shelter Study* — Peter Dorpalen said that in anticipation of the notice of grant award from OPM concerning the regional animal shelter study, he has prepared

a preliminary scope of work. He also requested the formation of a committee with a representative from each participating town to review the scope, select a consultant through a request for proposals process, and assist the consultant with the study. On a motion by Ed Edelson, seconded by Ed Mone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To authorize the COGCNV chairman to sign a notice of grant award from OPM for the regional animal shelter study.

- b. *Future Projects (GIS, Equipment, Economic Strategic Plan)* — Peter Dorpalen said it is time to start thinking about projects for the next round of the state’s Regional Performance Incentive Program. GIS projects are strong contenders for future rounds of funding, and there seems to be a demand for it on the local level. Mr. Dorpalen also discussed equipment sharing and economic strategic plans as possible projects. The deadline for projects is December 31. COG members expressed an interest in GIS and economic planning.

6. **Regional Business**

Bob Mezzo invited everyone to Naugatuck’s annual harvest festival taking place this weekend.

7. **Other**

- a. *COGCNV Website Upgrade* — Samuel Gold said today was the deadline for consultant proposals for the website upgrade. A recommendation for a design firm to hire will be made at the next COGCNV meeting.
- b. *Draft State Plan of Conservation and Development Policies – Municipal and Regional Comments* — Samuel Gold said the due date for comments on the draft plan is October 5. COGCNV staff is available to review town comments and assist with the mapping component. Rich Minnick also spoke about the importance of municipalities responding to the draft plan.
- c. *Household Hazardous Waste* — This event takes place on September 29 in Beacon Falls.
- d. *Emergency Planning* — Joe Perrelli reported that the hurricane exercise was a success and participating municipalities will receive a stipend. An after-action review of the hurricane exercise will be held in conjunction with the annual EMD meeting on September 17. Towns should designate proxies if unable to attend. On September 20 a special regional emergency planning team meeting will be held at the Watertown Fire Department. A CERT weekend is planned for September 22 and 23. Cots were recently purchased and will be delivered to Litchfield to be distributed to the towns. Each town in Region 5 is eligible for some cots and should make arrangements to pick them up. In addition, an animal shelter training session is set for October 4 at the Watertown Fire Department to give towns basic instructions on opening an animal shelter in an emergency. Invitations were sent to the region’s animal control officers.

- e. *America's Great Outdoors Event – Naugatuck River Greenway* — Samuel Gold said an event, organized by the National Park Service, will take place on September 23 that will try to link together all the communities along the Connecticut River. He described “Waterbury on Wheels” which is an important part of the day.

- f. *Non-ADA Para-Transit Service* - Samuel Gold said this service is public transportation for people with disabilities. The state has asked the contractor, North East Transportation, to hold the line with costs, even though costs have gone up. After assessing the job purposes for non-ADA para-transit, North East Transportation decided to limit the trips to employment, medical appointments, and for higher education purposes. This will most likely affect towns on the perimeter of Waterbury more than Waterbury itself, as Waterbury is covered by ADA para-transit, which is a federal mandate. Non-ADA service is provided within funding availability, and is also a service to which the towns contribute. Limiting non-ADA para-transit service may impact senior shuttle services. Further information will be forthcoming from CTDOT.

8. Adjournment

At 1:02 p.m., on a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Jeff Hamel, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by

Lauren Rizzo
Administrative Assistant
for
Ed Mone
Secretary