



MINUTES
Regional Planning Commission
of the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley

COGCVN Conference Room
49 Leavenworth Street, Ste. 303
Waterbury, CT
7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Attendance: Richard Minnick, David Chadderton, Beacon Falls; Martin Cobern, Cheshire; Ken Long, Middlebury; Peter Hughes, Prospect; Nancy Clark and Leslie Kane, Southbury; Robert Flanagan, Thomaston; James Sequin, Waterbury; and Cathe Sherman, Steve Bosco, Wolcott. **Staff:** Peter Dorpalen, Executive Director; Pat Gallagher, Regional Planner; Joe Perrelli, Senior Planner; Aaron Budris, GIS Planning Assistant.

1. Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, Introductions

The meeting opened at 7:05 P.M. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. RPC representatives, COGCVN staff, and guests introduced themselves. Peter Dorpalen welcomed the RPC members to COGCVN's new office space and introduced COGCVN's new GIS Planning Assistant, Aaron Budris.

2. Administrative Items

- a. *Approval of January 8, 2013 Meeting Minutes* — On a motion by Robert Flanagan, seconded by Joe McEvoy, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the January 8, 2013 RPC meeting.

- b. *Correspondence* — Peter Dorpalen summarized recent correspondence:

January 23, 2013	Letter from Greater Bridgeport and Valley MPO stating that STP Urban funds for Bridgeport-Stamford Urbanized Area will not be available for Oxford's Christian St project if the project is not ready this federal fiscal year
January 31, 2013	Letter to CTDOT requesting that the department include a trailhead for the Naugatuck River Greenway in its design plans for the CTTransit bus garage on Frost Bridge Rd in Watertown
February 1, 2013	Email transmitting the 2013 COGCVN Legislative Agenda to area legislators
February 15, 2013	Letter to GBVMPO from Peter Dorpalen stating that the project is scheduled for obligation this fiscal year, and CTDOT is confident the schedule can be met.
March 1, 2013	Memorandum from Regional Planner Pat Gallagher to CTDOT and Middlebury on a traffic operations study of the Rte 63/Rte 64 intersection in Middlebury

3. National Recreational Trails – Project Support Requests

Peter Dorpalen said COGCVN 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. COGCVN staff reviewed the grant proposals and found them to be in conformity with the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development.

On a motion by Martin Cobern, seconded by Ken Long, it was unanimously

VOTED: To endorse the applications from Naugatuck and Woodbury to the National Recreational Trails Program as discussed in Memorandum from John Monroe dated February 26, 2013 and Memorandum 022113 from Virginia Mason.

4. Thomaston Enterprise Zone Support Request – This item was tabled.

5. COGCNV Website Update – Peter Dorpalen discussed the recent developments in designing a logo and updating the COGCNV website. The website project was on hold during the course of the office relocation.

6. OPM Regional Planning Boundary Study – 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 a self-evaluation of the 10 criteria points OPM is assessing. In response to the request, Regional Planner Pat Gallagher drafted the report, *Evaluation of Geographic Boundaries for the Central Naugatuck Valley Region* and presented the findings. Robert Flanagan pointed out the benefits that our region has in having 3 separate representatives in U.S. Congress, who can advocate for regional interests. RPC members also commented that staff should also consider adding a map of conservation districts and CT DOT districts as well. On a motion by Martin Cobern, seconded by James Sequin, it was unanimously

VOTED: To recommend maintaining COGCNV existing boundaries, according to COGCNV's self-evaluation analysis in the report, *Evaluation of Geographical Boundaries for the Central Naugatuck Valley Region*.

7. Points of Interest / Local Activities

Thomaston – Bob Flanagan reported that

- The emergency communications towers are making their way through zoning. The maps were inaccurate, so they missed the role of I/W Commissions in approval process. One of the proposed towers will be located on High Street Extension; and the other in Nystrom Park.
- The Plan of C & D has been under development for 2 years now. The commission is expecting a June 2014 release.
- He appreciates the efforts of COGCNV staff in assisting with maps for the Plan of C & D. Once the plan is complete, he will work with municipal staff to encourage better data collection for the benefit of both the COGCNV and the town.

Middlebury – Ken Long reported that

- Town dispatch services are in the process of moving.
- A new frozen yogurt shop and pizza restaurant opened in Middlebury Station.
- Homes in the Triangle Blvd. neighborhood are still being moved. The sewer line was just disconnected a few weeks ago.
- The Plan of C & D is still under development.
- Library renovations and pump station project are underway. The MidEx building is the temporary home of the Middlebury Library during the library renovation project.
- The MidEx Building, located at 199 Park Road Ext. – formerly a Timex building – has two new tenants.
- Pilot Seasoning Company will present its proposal for N. Benson Road. site at the next P & Z

Commission hearing.

- Toll Bros. will be taking over the Ridgewood development across from the police station.

Southbury – Leslie Kane reported that

- The town is updating its streetscape plan.
- CT DEEP Deputy Commissioner, Macky McCleary, led a lunchtime forum at Town Hall on the Governor's program to highlight the changing ways that Connecticut values trash.
- A meeting to discuss recycling and environmental day and was held yesterday.
- The River Road bridge over the Pomperaug needs to be rehabilitated.
- Southbury Business Association has a meeting with town hall staff to go over the new sign regulations.
- GIS symbology for emergency facilities should be standardized.
- A proposal to add a recreation park at Heritage Village was passed with some contingencies.
- A study of a proposed bike lane on Main Street North and Main Street South was reviewed by the Planning Commission. Objections were raised because most of the data justifying the bike lane came from larger urban areas that did not reflect the town of Southbury. That initiative has been tabled for now.
- The Plan of C&D is ready for public hearing.
- The DPW did a fantastic job during the storm.

Wolcott – Cathe Sherman and Steve Bosco reported that

- New businesses coming into town include a bakery, a brewery, a hydroponics retail store, a gym, and a dog park near Peterson Park.
- The 140+ unit assisted living facility was recently approved after much debate.
- The town is halfway through a \$9 million bond for road paving. Due to lack of maintenance through the years, pavement preservation is a significantly larger investment than if the roads had been maintained over time. Municipalities can benefit from regional collaboration.

Prospect – Peter Hughes reported that

- The building where his business is located is now fully-occupied after having vacancies for the last two years or so.
- A new school is being proposed in town on Route 69 south of Canfield Park.
- A new water line is also being proposed along Route 69 between the town hall and the proposed school.

Waterbury – James Sequin reported that

- The application for an indoor firing range hasn't been as controversial as expected. The regulations were rewritten to require a Special Design Plan for such a facility.
- A proposed day care center in the historic building that was formerly the House on the Hill B & B (92 Woodlawn Terrace) has been controversial. It was denied by the Zoning Commission.
- A zone change was made on Park Road near the Middlebury town line.
- A zone change affecting 30 acres of city-owned land on East Main Street is being considered for commercial development. The land is located between Austin Road and the Cheshire town line.

Cheshire – Martin Cobern reported that

- The pool bubble collapsed again. The question has become whether to replace it with a rigid cover or leave it off.
- The North End Lifestyle Center is about ready to start construction.
- Building seems to be picking up in town. There is a new dentist office on Route 10, a new

upscale subdivision off of Oregon Road, and a yogurt store in Maplecroft Plaza.

- The town is moving ahead with another section of the Linear Trail from W. Main Street north. The link between Cornwall Avenue and W. Main Street still poses a challenge.
- The town is starting the update of its Plan of C & D. The plan will be posted online for public comments.
- The new dog park is moving forward in a portion of Bartlem Park. This is a private operation.

Beacon Falls – David Chadderton reported that

- New construction on Main Street will bring a new business to town.
- The Plan of C&D is still in development.
- Full Harvest Restaurant closed down.

8. Other

- *Household Hazardous Waste Collection* – Patrick Gallagher reported that the HHW Committee recently selected a new vendor, MXI Environmental, to handle the region’s household hazardous waste collection services. As of July 1, a new paint product stewardship program will go into effect. Oil-based and latex paints will be collected for processing through a network of collection sites throughout the state. The program will be entirely funded by an assessment on all paint sold within the state.

HHW Collections are scheduled for April 27 in Southbury, July 13 in Bethlehem, and October 19 in Waterbury.

Robert Flanagan asked about upcoming regional electronics recycling events. In the past, CRRRA had offered regional electronics recycling events. This service is no longer offered, but transfer stations must collect certain electronic devices under a recent state law. Mr. Perrelli discussed recent developments in electronics recycling in the region. All of our municipalities have been working with a vendor that recently dropped from the list of state-approved recyclers. As a result, the towns are all in a hurry to find a new electronics recycling vendor. There may be an opportunity to run a regional RFP to try and leverage the opportunity for a larger service area covering multiple towns. The current vendor collects electronics at no cost to the towns, and it is unlikely that there would be any cost for the service from other vendors. There is the potential for municipal rebates with certain vendors.

- *Regional Animal Shelter Study* – Peter Dorpalen said seven responses for the animal shelter feasibility study RFP were received. The advisory committee will meet on Thursday to decide which firms to interview.

9. Adjournment

On a motion by Robert Flanagan, seconded by Ken Long, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 8:23 pm.

Submitted by
Joe Perrelli
Senior Planner
for
Nancy Clark
RPC Secretary