

**MINUTES (REVISED)**  
**Regional Planning Commission**  
**of the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley**

COGCNV Conference Room  
60 North Main Street – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
(Waterbury Savings Bank Building – North Lobby)  
Waterbury, CT  
7:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 11, 2012

**Attendance:** Richard Minnick and Peter Betkoski, Beacon Falls; Martin Cobern, Cheshire; Harold Cosgrove, Oxford; Gil Graveline, Prospect; Nancy Clark, Southbury; Bill Guerrero and Robert Flanagan, Thomaston; Ruth Mulcahy, Watertown; and Steven Bosco, Wolcott. **Staff:** Peter Dorpalen, Executive Director; Samuel Gold, Senior Planner; Pat Gallagher, Regional Planner; Joe Perrelli, Senior Planner.

**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, COGCNV staff, and guests introduced themselves. Peter Dorpalen welcomed new RPC Member Steven Bosco and introduced Regional Planner Pat Gallagher. A moment of silence was observed in honor of the victims of September 11, 2001.

**2. Election of FY2012-13 Officers**

Robert Flanagan reported that the nominating committee (Harold Cosgrove, Robert Flanagan, and Cathe Sherman) recommended the existing officers as the slate for FY2012-2013: Chairman Rich Minnick, Beacon Falls; Vice-Chairman Ken Long, Middlebury; and Secretary Nancy Clark, Southbury. There were no nominations from the floor. On a motion by Robert Flanagan, seconded by Martin Cobern, it was unanimously

VOTED: To elect the nominating committee's slate of officers for FY2012-2013.

**3. Administrative Items**

a. *Approval of May 1, 2012 Meeting Minutes* — On a motion by Harold Cosgrove, seconded by Ruth Mulcahy, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the May 1, 2012 RPC meeting.

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

June 13, 2012	Letter transmitting COGCNV's testimony concerning OPM's draft State Plan
July 18, 2012	Letter to Patrick Gallagher of Vernon, CT, confirming his hiring as a regional planner, beginning August 13, 2012
July 31, 2012	Letter to municipal and CTDOT officials from Joe Perrelli transmitting a memorandum on the analysis of parcels with rail access
August 7, 2012	Letter from Virginia Mason with comments and suggestions on the Watertown Fire District's Water Supply Plan
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 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

4. **Draft State Plan of Conservation and Development Policies – Municipal and Regional Comments –** Samuel Gold gave an overview of the draft State Plan of Conservation and Development and highlighted differences between the current state plan and the new draft plan. Gold also listed a number of concerns staff has with the draft plan’s locational guide map. Public and municipal comments on the draft State Plan are due to OPM on Friday, October 5, 2012.
5. **Amtrak Long-Term High Speed Rail Vision for the North East Corridor –** Samuel Gold gave an overview of Amtrak’s vision for a new high-speed rail corridor connection New York and Boston within the I-84 corridor. Amtrak’s vision would include new stations in Danbury and Waterbury. Most service on the new high-speed line would run express between Boston and New York, although there will be some local service that will stop in Waterbury.

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is conducting scoping for a high-level environmental impact statement (EIS) on future improvement to the Northeast Corridor rail line between Washington and Boston. This EIS could include the study of Amtrak’s proposed high-speed rail line. Gold attended a stakeholder meeting in August on the EIS scoping. Communities along the shoreline voice strong opposition to Amtrak’s proposal for a new rail line along I-84. The draft EIS scope is limited to studying passenger rail along the Northeast Corridor. Opportunities to improve freight rail access are not included in the draft study scope. On a motion by Ruth Mulcahy, seconded by Nancy Clark, it was unanimously

VOTED: To recommend that COGCNV 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.

6. **COGCNV Website Upgrade –** Samuel Gold reported that a request for proposals had been distributed for a new COGCNV website. Responses are due on Friday, September 14, 2011.
7. **Regional Animal Shelter Study—** Peter Dorpalen reported that the feasibility study for a regional animal control facility was approved for funding under OPM’s Regional Performance Incentive Program.

## 8. Points of Interest / Local Activities

*Cheshire* – Martin Cobern reported that

- Annual Fall Festival was held last Saturday.
- First P&Z meeting was held after the summer vacation.
- Joe Michelangelo has moved on from position of Public Works Director.

*Wolcott* – Steve Bosco reported that

- In October, the substance abuse committee is putting on an event for kids.
- Dustin Diamond of *Saved by the Bell* will be performing his comedy act at Mona Lisa restaurant.

*Oxford* – Harold Cosgrove reported that

- The town has hired an attorney to assist with affordable housing issues.
- An application for the town's Incentive Housing Zone (IHZ) was sent up to Hartford.
- P&Z approved greenhouse expansion at brewery in town.
- \$3 million ball field was approved for the high school.

*Thomaston* – Bill Guerrera and Bob Flanagan reported that

- Thomaston just held the Annual Car Show.
- P&Z will vote on towers for EMS at this week's meeting. Ultimately, four 145-ft. towers will be built at a cost of \$3.2 million. Motorola performs the mapping needed to site the towers.
- New Committee was formed for the Plan of C&D with Tighe & Bond acting as a consultant. Two meetings were held so far. There will be meeting monthly.
- The Board of Selectman said it would support a track facility at Nystrom's Park, recommending the new facility to the Board of Finance. The estimated cost is \$2.2 million. The Board of Selectman supports using \$1 million of town money.
- The construction of the geothermal system at the Town Hall has been put on hold. Sediment has been getting into nearby streams and clogging culverts in the area, so the work was put on hold until this is fixed. Should be installed and running in the winter.

*Southbury* – Nancy Clark reported that

- Town picnic was recently held.
- Farmers' market has been a success.
- Town is still pro-active about preserving Southbury Training School as open space.
- Plan of C&D is ready for a public hearing.
- Town and property owners have applied for flood relief monies for properties along the Pomperaug River.

*Beacon Falls* – Peter Betkoski and Rich Minnick reported that

- Plan of C&D has been completed. The plan is now in the hands of P&Z. The public hearing will be the next step.
- The new greenway trail in the downtown is complete. There will be a dedication ceremony on September 25.
- A two-lot subdivision was approved.
- Pond Spring Village, an age-restricted community, will be completed.
- Windham Homes, a large-tract age-restricted community, was sold. The wetlands commission has a substantial bond on the development.
- A business that makes shields for nuclear reactors has moved to the site where Not Just Trucking and a few other businesses are located.

- Another business in town is looking to expand. It will soon be coming before P&Z to present a proposal.
- Volunteers have been very helpful with Toby's Pond rehabilitation and greenway trail. The pond has been rehabilitated after last year's flood damage.

*Prospect* – Gil Graveline reported that

- Town is starting work on a new Plan of C&D with the help of Milone & MacBroom.
- P&Z is working on home occupation regulations.
- Toll Bros. 488-unit community is half completed.
- Working on new K-5 school and eliminating 2 schools.
- A new office is being built for Region 16 Board of Ed. The cost for demolition has been unbelievable.
- Laurel Ledge School in Beacon Falls is being renovated as well.

*Watertown* – Ruth Mulcahy reported that

- Renovations at four schools are complete.
- New municipal office building at the old Heminway School is done. The Planning Department was the first to move in.
- Pre-construction meetings were held for CVS, three subdivisions, Auto Zone, and the new Hyundai dealership.
- The Planning Department is still working on getting additional documentation for 59 single-family condominium units at Nova Scotia Hill and Buckingham. They are on their last 90-day extension for filing.
- The new stormwater amendments to the subdivision and zoning regulations are done.
- The town allocated money for an 80-acre open space parcel for the Land Trust on Hinman Road. The town is applying for a state grant.

## **9. Upcoming Events**

- Access Management Planners Lunch to be held on Thursday, September 27, 2012.
- America's Great Outdoors Event – Naugatuck River Greenway to be held on Sunday, September 23, 2012. The event will include a family bicycle day around the Waterbury Green, a ribbon cutting on a portion of the greenway in Beacon Falls, and a peloton of cyclists bicycling from Torrington to Derby.
- Household Hazardous Waste Event will be held in Beacon Falls on Saturday, September 29, 2012.
- Electronics Recycling will be held by CRRA in Waterbury on Saturday, September 27, 2012.

## **10. Adjournment**

On a motion by Martin Cobern, seconded by Ruth Mulcahy, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 8:17 pm.

Submitted by  
 Samuel Gold and Joe Perrelli  
 Senior Planners  
 For  
 Nancy Clark  
 RPC Secretary