



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

COGCV Conference Room  
49 Leavenworth Street, Ste. 303  
Waterbury, CT  
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 11, 2014

**Attendance:** Joe McEvoy, Naugatuck; Nancy Clark and Leslie Kane, Southbury; Cathe Sherman, Wolcott; Joel Serota, Woodbury.

**On the phone:** Ray Jurzynski, Jr., Beacon Falls; Ken Long, Middlebury; Dennis Casey, Waterbury.

**Guests:** Kathy McNamara, Sal Porzio, City of Waterbury.

**Staff:** Samuel Gold, Executive Director; Joe Perrelli, Senior Planner; Pat Gallagher, Regional Planner; Aaron Budris, Regional Planner/GIS Specialist.

**1. Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, Introductions**

The meeting opened at 7:10 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

**2. Administrative Items**

*Approval of November 12, 2013 and December 18, 2013 Meeting Minutes* — On a motion by Cathe Sherman, seconded by Leslie Kane, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the November 12, 2013 and December 18, 2013 RPC meetings.

a. *Correspondence* — Samuel Gold summarized recent correspondence:

12/23/13	Email from Financial Manager Trish Bauer to COGCV members and alternates transmitting the FY2013 COGCV Audit report.
12/23/13	Transmittal of a Nutmeg Network Grant Application from Executive Director Samuel Gold to OPM.
12/24/13	Letter from Samuel Gold, Executive Director, to Mr. Frank Pielmeier of Southbury addressing comments made in a letter to Southbury First Selectman Ed Edelson regarding the Regional Animal Shelter Feasibility study.
12/24/13	Letter from OPM Secretary Benjamin Barnes to Kurt Miller, Chairman of Valley Council of Governments, with copies to COGCV Chairman Ed Edelson, Executive Director Samuel Gold, and Valley COG Executive Director Rick Dunne, noting that he has re-designated the Valley and Central Naugatuck Valley Planning Regions into one new planning region to be known as the Naugatuck Valley Planning Region.
12/25/13	Email from Valley COG Executive Director Rick Dunne to COGCV members and alternates, Valley COG members, and other interested parties, along with an

	attachment from OPM Secretary Barnes (noted above) expressing his approval of the joint petition for re-designation of the COGCV and Valley COG planning regions, to be now known as the Naugatuck Valley Planning Region. Mr. Dunne also suggested preliminary arrangements for a meeting of the Chairmen and Executive Directors.
12/27/13	Email from Samuel Gold to Rick Dunne, with copies to COG members and alternates, Valley COG members, and other interested parties, thanking him for sharing the news of the regional re-designation and thanking the new region's chief elected officials for their work in getting to this point, and stating he is working on a merger outline and task list.
12/27/13	Letter from OPM Acting Undersecretary David LeVasseur to Bristol Mayor Kenneth Cockayne formally notifying him that the boundaries of the Central Connecticut Planning Region have been proposed for re-designation, and that the City of Bristol is proposed for re-designation into the Capitol Planning Region. Possible remedies were proposed to take the necessary steps to withdraw from CCRPA and join whichever Council of Governments the City of Bristol is ultimately eligible to join.
12/27/13	Letter from OPM Acting Undersecretary David LeVasseur to Plymouth Mayor David Merchant, formally notifying him that the boundaries of the Central Connecticut Planning Region have been proposed for re-designation, and that the Town of Plymouth is proposed for re-designation into the Capitol Planning Region. Possible remedies were proposed to take the necessary steps to withdraw from CCRPA and join whichever Council of Governments the Town of Plymouth is ultimately eligible to join.
1/6/14	Letter from Franz R. Pielmeier of Southbury, dated 1/1/14, concerning, among other items, the COGCV Regional Animal Shelter Plan.
1/7/14	Receipt of a letter dated 12/24/13 from Office of Policy and Management Secretary Benjamin Barnes to COGCV Chairman Ed Edelson, with copies to the Valley COG Chairman Kurt Miller, COGCV Executive Director Samuel Gold, and Valley COG Executive Director Rick Dunne, expressing his approval of the joint petition for re-designation of the COGCV and Valley COG planning regions, to be now known as the Naugatuck Valley Planning Region.
1/10/14	Transmission to CTDOT of the Second Quarter Progress Report for the FY 2014 COGCV Regional Transportation Planning Program.
1/13/13	Email from Valley COG Executive Director Rick Dunne expressing concerns about the approach to the formation of a merger between Valley COG and COGCV.
1/16/14	Letter from Waterbury Mayor Neil O'Leary inviting Executive Director Samuel Gold to become a member of the Waterbury Public Arts Advisory Committee.

1/17/14	Letters from Executive Director Samuel Gold to Michael Opuszynski and Raymond Jurzynski, Jr., both of Beacon Falls, welcoming them to the Regional Planning Commission.
1/17/14	Email to Town Planners and Land Use Administrators concerning 2014 Land Use Planning Seminars.
1/22/14	Email to Joe Perrelli from CTDOT stating that the Department will begin processing Southbury's River Road Bridge rehabilitation project under the LOTCIP program.
1/23/14	Letters from Executive Director Samuel Gold to Andrew McGeever and Wayne Watt, both of Oxford, welcoming them to the Regional Planning Commission.
1/28/14	Copy of a letter from Bristol Mayor Kenneth Cockayne to OPM Secretary Benjamin Barnes, submitting the city's appeal to designate Bristol to COGCNV rather than the Capitol Planning Region.
1/22/14	Letter from Silver/Petrucelli outlining second design and site plan option change order proposal for the Middlebury Site Regional Animal Control Facility Feasibility Study.
2/7/14	Letter from Office of Policy and Management Secretary Benjamin Barnes informing the City of Bristol that it has been re-designated as part of the Naugatuck Valley Planning Region, effective immediately.
2/11/14	Email to Joe Perrelli from CTDOT stating that the Waterbury Bus Service and Operations Study has been selected to move forward.
2/12/14	Email from Joe Perrelli to COGCNV CEOs and Public Works Directors concerning the possible reclassification of any roads in a municipality as per the Functional Classification Change Request Form submitted by CTDOT.
2/13/14	Email from Pat Gallagher transmitting the Regional Animal Shelter Feasibility Study along with a memorandum summarizing findings of the study.
2/19/14	Letter from Sam Gold expressing support for Thomaston's application for Grove Manor Roof Replacement and Brick Re-pointing under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.
2/20/14	Letter from Pat Gallagher transmitting the final report of the Regional Animal Shelter Study.
2/20/14	Email from Joe Perrelli to CEOs regarding the rescheduled meeting of DEMHS Region 5 CEOs and items to be purchased through proposed revisions to the spending plan.
2/25/14	Email from Sam Gold to COGCNV members seeking volunteers for the

	subcommittees that will help facilitate different elements of the COG consolidation process.
3/3/14	Email from Lauren Rizzo inviting municipal officials to a March 20 <sup>th</sup> workshop titled <i>Understanding Your Region's Economy: An Overview of the Central Naugatuck Valley Economic Profile: 2013</i> .
3/4/14	Letter from Sam Gold welcoming Eileen Denver as Woodbury's representative to the regional planning commission.
3/6/14	Email from Sam Gold inviting interested parties to a March 21 <sup>st</sup> meeting on the new 5310 grant program for minibuses and transportation for the disabled populations.

Nancy Clark requested that a December 16, 2013 memo from Southbury's Planning Commission to the Board of Selectmen, discussing actions on the proposed improvements at Exits 14-16, be added to the correspondence. She also requested that the minutes from the Board of Selectman meeting on December 19, 2013, including a vote on the proposed project, be added to the correspondence.

### 3. Transportation Planning

- a. *I-84 Interchange Projects in Southbury (Exits 14, 15, and 16)* – Joe Perrelli gave an overview of the proposed improvements in the corridor, their purpose and need, and concerns that have been raised by the Planning Commission and Board of Selectmen in Southbury. The RPC heard from CTDOT's project manager and representatives from the Southbury Planning Commission at the December meeting, and voted to table any motion on the issue to provide RPC members time to review the project plans. On a motion by Joel Serota, seconded by Cathe Sherman, it was unanimously

VOTED: To recommend that the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley approve a resolution in support of the advancement of the I-84 Interchange Projects in Southbury without the proposed improvements at Exit 15.

- b. *I-84 Interchange 17 Project* – Joe Perrelli reported on the recent progress on the proposed improvements at I-84 Exit 17, including the intersection of Routes 63 and 64. COGCNV staff had a meeting at CTDOT in February to discuss the scope and schedule of the project. The project, which is a high priority in the Long Range Transportation Plan, has been stalled in recent years due to lack of funding. Design will commence in the next few months, using unprogrammed funds from the region's STP-Urban program.
- c. *City of Waterbury TIGER Grant Project: Naugatuck River Greenway and Freight Street Corridor Revitalization* – Kathy McNamara and Sal Porzio presented the City's proposal for a TIGER grant to construct a portion of the Naugatuck River Greenway, to improve the Freight Street Corridor, and create a park and other amenities in the vicinity of the river, linking it to the train station as a means of economic recovery. The City is seeking a letter of support from the COGCNV and requesting the COGCNV to serve as a partner on this project. On a motion by Dennis Casey, seconded by Joe McEvoy, it was unanimously

VOTED: To support Waterbury's TIGER Grant Application and recommend COGCNV's role as a partner in the process.

#### 4. Economic Profile

Pat Gallagher presented major findings from the recently completed Central Naugatuck Valley Economic Profile: 2013, which was presented at the February COGCNV meeting for approval. The report provides an in-depth look at the regional economic trends such as employment, job concentration, wages, worker age, and employment projections up to 2020. Twenty sectors of the region's economy were examined. The report, which covers period from 2002 to 2011, uses data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Connecticut Department of Labor, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The full report can be downloaded from the COGCNV website.

#### 5. RPO Consolidation Update

Samuel Gold reported that the Undersecretary of OPM approved the petition for a merged planning region composed of the COGCNV and VCOG municipalities on December 24. Bristol and Plymouth subsequently petitioned OPM to join the new region and received their approval last month. Since January 1, when the new planning region was officially recognized, COGCNV and VCOG have been in negotiations to establish procedures and committees to create the new COG by January 2015. COGCNV's attorney, Steve Mednick, has been working with VCOG's attorney to draft an MOA that will establish a framework for the merger.

COGCNV's attorney also drafted model ordinances for the CNVR municipalities to adopt to join the new COG. The ordinance was approved by COGCNV at the February meeting. Once 12 of the 19 municipalities that form the new COG adopt an ordinance, a new transition board can be established to make decisions for the future COG.

#### 6. Points of Interest / Local Activities

*Middlebury – Ken Long reported that*

- The town has been pursuing LED light upgrades in public facilities through CL&P. The upgrades should lead to cost savings for the town.
- Work on two pump stations are complete. Work on the third pump station upgrade is in progress.

*Southbury – Nancy Clark reported that*

- Presentations on the streetscape improvements and maintenance have been conducted. There is a proposal now for funding the maintenance of the streetscape.
- Proposal to redevelop a music studio in Southbury Plaza. It is proposed for expansion.
- A proposal to manufacture 3D dental products in the Historic District passed.
- The zone change for the proposed movie theater is now before the Zoning Commission.
- A 3-lot subdivision on Bucks Hill was approved.
- Six new satellite dishes were approved at the COMSAT facility in town. This will bring the total to around 19 satellites.
- Proposed re-use of Southbury Training School is still moving forward.
- Emerald ash borer has been found in town.

*Naugatuck – Joe McEvoy reported that*

- The high school project is still moving forward. The borough is looking into making other

changes to the school system.

- The borough is looking into what to do with the GDC property. Moving the vehicles from a local dealership off of the property has been a big challenge.

*Woodbury – Joel Serota reported that*

- The town has gained traction on the acquisition of 240+ acres of water company property for open space. The town engaged the Trust for Public Land for technical assistance. They're working on the yellow book appraisals that are needed to obtain grant funding. Flanders will not be partnering in the acquisition, but is willing to assist with fundraising efforts. The town wants to survey residents to gauge their interest in the open space acquisition, which will serve as an important connection between other trails in the area.

*Wolcott – Cathe Sherman reported that*

- Budget season is starting in town. The town has had to transfer funds from other line items in the current budget to cover the cost of snow removal.
- The town is seeing more businesses moving in on Route 69.
- On the docket for the Zoning Commission, there is a proposal to change the zoning from industrial to residential in the Grilley Road area.

**7. Other**

- Samuel Gold reported that the second session of the land use seminar series at Middlebury Library is next Thursday. COGCNV offers these seminars every two years. They're a great resource, particularly for new land use commissioners.
- Pat Gallagher reported on the Regional Animal Shelter Feasibility Study. The Middlebury site was selected as the preferred location. Designs were prepared by the consultant with an estimated \$2.9 million cost to build the new facility. A second set of plans was prepared to accommodate any other municipalities that are interested in participating in the regional shelter project. The cost estimate for that facility is around \$4 million. It would double the amount of animals that can be served, but it would also mean more cost-sharing since more communities would be participating.

**8. Adjournment**

On a motion by Joel Serota, seconded by Joe McEvoy it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Submitted by  
Joe Perrelli  
Senior Planner  
for  
Gil Graveline  
RPC Secretary