

Meeting Minutes

March 2014 Regular Meeting - March 28, 2014

Mr. Walker, NECCOG Chair opened the meeting at 10:02 - noting that a quorum was present (Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, **Eastford**, Hampton, Killingly, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Scotland, Sterling, Thompson and Woodstock)

Previous meeting minutes were adopted unanimously as submitted on a motion by Mr. Sweet and seconded by Mr. Piper.

Agenda Addendum 1 adding Regional Referrals and STIP Amendments were added on a motion by Mr. Syme and second by Ms. Nicholson.

There was no public participation

John Filchak, Executive Director gave a brief update on various programs: **Animal Services**, a special meeting was held with about 18 interested persons where the facility was discussed at length and it was decided that a animal services advisory committee would be formed and meet every other month. **Economic Development** - noting that shortly he would be gathering the region's economic development professionals to structure the new Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy based on the new regional configuration. **GIS Program** - work is progressing toward the addition of the four new towns into the NECCOG Viewer and that we should be complete by June 30. **RPI Applications** - all town resolutions (12 of the 16 towns) were turned into OPM - he noted that Nutmeg Network connections were getting the priority for funding this round. The Director discussed the new COG requirement that each region have in place a **Human Services Advisory Committee** on or before January 1, 2015. He noted that the proposed bylaws have this committee added as a standing NECCOG committee. The Director discussed the **5310 Program** for Elderly/Disabled transportation and the application process. **Legislation** to alter the appointment of ZEOs, eliminate the four-year term for building officials and clarify the appointment of fire marshals was defeated at the committee level. The Director noted (proving several handouts) that 2015 would be a year where **property tax reform** would be a major issue. Finally, he noted that Region IV may be changing its bylaws regarding proxy voting to allow for a person to hold more than one vote (a right which was taken away a few years ago).

Regional Referrals

- ▶ Town of Hampton and Town of Plainfield tabled to the April Meeting
- ▶ Town of Brooklyn, approved with no regional impact noted; Town of Canterbury, approved with no regional impact noted; Town of Plainfield, approved with no regional impact noted. - Approved on a motion by Ms. Nicholson and second by Mr. Hallbergh.

STIP Amendments

Both approved as presented on a motion by Mr. Sweet and second by Ms. Nicholson

Resolution 3-1-14 - Authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments regarding "Functions and Responsibilities for DMHS Region 4 Homeland Security Grant Program" approved as presented on a motion by Ms. Nicholson and second by Mr. Piper.

Bylaw Amendments - tabled to the April meeting, motion by Mr. Sweet, second by Ms. Nicholson

2014-15 Work Plan - consensus to have the Executive Committee review and bring back to the April meeting

Presentation by the Town of Putnam

Mayor Falzarano provided introductory remarks about what the Town is seeking to accomplish and the resulting opportunities for towns in the region. The Mayor introduced Doug Cutler (Town Administrator) and Scott Pempek to provide a detailed overview of the project and how other towns in the region could benefit from it.

Mr. Cutler led off the presentation providing location details (267 acres, 20 lots and two phases of development - including the extension of the River Trail and Airline Trail to the site). He noted that the new bridge and roadway accessing the site was fully complete in terms of design. Mr. Cutler overviewed state and federal funding to date, including a \$2.7 m state grant, \$317,000 STEAP Grant and a USDA grant/loan for water and sewer extensions. Mr. Cutler emphasized that the Town could go it alone - however, they would like one or more partners to take advantage of increased state assistance for the project. If the Town goes on its own it would be eligible for a 50 percent reimbursement - with one or more communities the reimbursement goes to 75 percent.

Mr. Pempek provided a Powerpoint presentation (attached to the minutes) detailing the financials of the proposal and what "investing towns" could realize by participating in the project.

Mr. Sweet thanked and complemented Putnam on the presentation. He expressed concern about the untended consequences of the initiative. Specifically, he asked what the impact would be on Plainfield and other towns with active business development in terms of securing state or federal funds - when Putnam has a "regional" tech park.

Mr. Cahill, Mr. Syme and Mr. Piper expressed interest in the approach - wanting more information. Mr. Pempek and Mr. Cutler indicated that they would be more than willing to meet locally with towns to discuss their proposal.

Mr. Hallbergh also complemented the presenters on the quality of the presentation. However, he stated that the project was not regional and really a Putnam project.

Selectmen's Roundtable

Discussion about a proposed federal change to the definition of "Rural" and the need to raise this issue with our Congressional delegation

Thompson asked about wage increases in contracts

Start time of the meeting was discussed and it was decided that 9:00 a.m. would be an acceptable change for all regular meetings going forward.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.