

Capitol Region Council of Governments

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MINUTES OF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

September 20, 2007

ATTENDANCE

Members and Alternates

Steve Adler	<u>Town</u> West Hartford
Jeff Carboneau	Suffield
Sue Errickson	Tolland
John Larensen	Marlborough
John Loomis	Simsbury
Thomas Manning	Bolton
Karl Profe	Windsor
Janet Ramsay	Windsor Locks
Bill Skinner	East Granby
Cliff Slicer	South Windsor

Others Present

Mary Ellen Kowalewski	CRCOG
Rebecca Augur	CRCOG

Chairman Larensen called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

Adoption of Minutes

Errickson moved to adopt the minutes from the June 21, 2007 meeting. Carboneau seconded. The motion passed.

Capitol Region Home Sales Price Report

Ms. Augur reported on the FY 2007 edition of the Sales Price Report. She remarked that there was a leveling off in the overall increase in sales prices (2.6%) and a decline in the number of sales (-11%); however, the changes still do not indicate a dramatic downturn in the housing market for the region. The full report will be posted on the CROG website by the end of September.

Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Ms. Augur discussed progress on CRCOG's planning process. Staff have met with 24 of the region's municipalities to develop local goals and strategies, and have begun drafting local sections. She provided examples from Avon and Newington to demonstrate the format of the individual municipal sections. The planning process will move into a public comment phase in late fall, with the expectation of having a complete draft ready by the end of the year. Commissioners will be notified of public meetings and when the complete draft is ready. Ms. Augur then discussed some of the themes that have come out of meetings with towns, and their relevance to planning & zoning commissions' work, including the need to study smaller stream systems burdened by increased runoff resulting from development, installation of dry hydrants with new developments, encouraging power lines be put underground whenever feasible, and the need for education of both public works and inland wetlands commissions on the balance between preserving environmental resources and preventing flooding.

Regional Plan Update

Mary Ellen Kowalewski discussed the update to the regional plan that CRCOG must complete in 2008. She reviewed the elements in the existing plan, how CRCOG staff use the current plan, the law requiring the update, and the State's recently adopted six growth management principles which the update must clearly address. She discussed the sections that staff think need updating, and asked for feedback from members and their respective commissions on other areas that they would like to see CRCOG focus on. Mr. Loomis suggested that agricultural land preservation, and mapping of farmland, as well as mention of the need for GIS information sharing throughout the region would be important additions to the plan. Ms. Kowalewski then described the proposed update process which would involve staff conducting thematic work sessions based on the six growth management principles, and having the Regional Planning Commission discuss sections at one meeting, but not vote on them until the next meeting to allow members to have time to solicit feedback from their fellow local commissioners.

Report on Zoning, Subdivision, and Plan of Development Referrals:

Rebecca Augur reported on 33 zoning, 2 subdivision and 2 Plan of Development referrals. There was little discussion. Errickson moved and Profe seconded adoption of the referral comments. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Mary Ellen Kowalewski asked whether members were interested in taking a tour of Blue Back Square and having the developer make a presentation on the project. There was interest, but it was decided to hold off until the spring.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.