

Capitol Region Council of Governments

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MINUTES OF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

January 15, 2009

ATTENDANCE

Members and Alternates

Patrick Kennedy
John Larensen
Julie Meyer
Bradley Pellisier
Sandra Bobowski
Thomas Manning
Bruce Martimer
Michael Seder
Janet Ramsay
Tom Derlinga

Town

South Windsor
Marlborough
Simsbury
Somers
Hartford
Bolton
Canton
West Hartford
Windsor Locks
East Granby

Others Present

Emily Moos
Mary Ellen Kowalewski

CRCOG
CRCOG

Chairman Larensen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Patrick Kennedy made and Brad Pellisier seconded a motion at adopt the minutes of the November 20, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

REGIONAL PLAN UPDATE

Emily Moos gave a presentation on the Regional Plan Update, which is the result of talking to all the Capitol Region town planners. Ms. Moos distributed a packet of information that included a Conservation and Development Matrix with addendum which is to be used in conjunction with the Plan's land use policy map, a Municipal Focus Areas map, chart and narrative summary and a copy of the Draft 2008 Land Use Policy Map with notes. Ms. Moos stated that throughout the review process, the most significant changes made to the draft policy map had to do with open space. Ms. Moos also noted that changes to both the open space layers and development intensity layers are reflected in the map notes which were distributed and which will appear on the map in the final published version. Ms. Moos stated that approximately 80% of towns in the region have come almost fully through the review process with 25% of that number having completely signed off on their portion of the map. The Community Development staff still expects the plan to be presented to the CRCOG Policy Board in early 2009. Ms. Moos explained that the Regional Planning Commission will now have one month to review and these materials and make comments on the map and particularly on the goals and policies of the plan itself, for the three chapters presented tonight.

Mary Ellen Kowalewski, CRCOG Community Development Director gave a presentation on the text changes to three chapters of the Regional Plan Document. These chapters were the Transportation, Housing and Economic Development. Ms. Kowalewski noted that the changes made to these sections were not major changes, but rather an update of selected data points that have become available in the five years since the publication of the last Regional Plan in 2003. The Transportation Chapter includes status updates on key regional projects. The Economic Development chapter includes reference to the recently adopted Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, prepared by the MetroHartford Alliance. As will the map changes, Ms. Kowalewski requested that members submit their comments, if any, to CRCOG staff at or before the February RPC meeting.

REPORT ON 2009 CRCOG Mapping Projects:

Mary Ellen Kowalewski stated that through the Regional Performance Incentive grant received at CRCOG, \$357,000 was allocated to conduct an ortho-photography flight of the region. This flight will occur in the spring of 2009 and will produce high quality ortho-photos that can be used by towns for planimetric and other mapping purposes.

Ms. Kowalewski also stated that through the same grant program, CRCOG received \$25,000 to enhance the web-based GIS mapping function that already exists and is available to municipalities through the CRCOG website. Ms. Kowalewski said that this project will also take place during the spring of 2009.

Finally, Ms. Kowalewski informed the commission that CRCOG would also be updating the Captiol Region's sewer data layer during the Spring of 2009. Michael Seder of West Hartford inquired as to whether CRCOG had contacted state agencies to determine whether this update would be duplicate efforts already undertaken. Ms. Kowalewski stated that agencies are involved in this project, and that CRCOG would not be replicating data already created by agencies like the MDC.

Ms. Kowalewski closed by stating that these three projects will provide member communities with data and tools that will be useful to local planning projects. With regard to the ortho-photography flight, the product will also save towns the money required to create such a mapping project on their own.

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

Emily Moos reported on this month's referrals. There were 11 zoning referrals, two of which started off the 2009 round of referrals. Julie Meyer of Simsbury inquired as to whether concept plans were a typical zoning mechanism for planned developments. Two members of the Commission responded that they had experienced them and that there were no problems to report with the functioning of this type of regulation. After some discussion, Patrick Kennedy made and Brad Pellisier seconded a motion to accept the report on zoning and subdivision referrals as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of 2009 RPC Meeting Schedule

Sandra Bobowski made and Tom Derlinga seconded a motion to adopt the 2009 RPC Meeting Schedule as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Mary Ellen Kowalewski announced that she would be sending out forms for indicating which members from municipal planning and zoning commissions will sit on the Regional Planning Commission for 2009. Copies will be sent to RPC members, and she asked for their assistance in having the forms returned in a timely manner.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.