

Capitol Region Council of Governments

241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: (860) 522-2217 FAX: (860) 724-1274
Web Page: www.crcog.org

MINUTES OF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

October 15, 2009

ATTENDANCE

Members and Alternates

John Larensen
Bruce Mortimer
Sandra Bobowski
Michael Seder
Bradley Pellesier
Sue Errickson
James Sansone
Patrick Kennedy
Thomas Manning
Carol Cole
Karl Profe
Tom Derlinga

Town

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

Others Present

Mary Ellen Kowalewski
Emily Moos

CRCOG
CRCOG

Having exceeded a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Adoption of Minutes: September 17, 2009, June 18, 2009, May 21, 2009 and April 16, 2009

A motion was made by Sandra Bobowski and seconded by Michael Sedar to adopt all minutes. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Regional Plan of Development – Review of September 14, 2009 Public Hearing Comments, Incorporation of Changes, Approval of Final Document, and Referral to CRCOG Policy Board for Action (attachment);

John Larensen reported that the required public hearing on the Regional Plan Update had been conducted on September 14th at the West Hartford Town Hall and that there were no comments, but staff had received several comments during the public comment period. Mary Ellen Kowalewski made introductory remarks on the overall plan update process. Emily Moos reviewed comments received and the key changes made to the plan draft as a result which included, for example, changes to the introductory paragraphs of the Open Space & Farmland Preservation Chapter to suggest sustainable development practices in areas where development of Open Space is deemed acceptable by towns.

Patrick Kennedy made and Sue Errickson seconded a motion to adopt the 2009 update of the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development, and refer the plan to the CRCOG Policy Board for adoption. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Discussion of CRCOG Sustainable Communities Initiative Proposal

Emily Moos presented CRCOG's Sustainable Communities Initiative Proposal. This proposed initiative was conceived in tandem with the completion of two efforts by CRCOG within the past year, the Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Grant project with EPA and the Redesigning the Edgeless City Course with Regional Plan Association and Lincoln Institute for Land Policy. The CRCOG Sustainable Communities Initiative would include the formalization of a Sustainability agenda for the Capitol Region by way of a new CRCOG Committee on Sustainable Communities. This Committee would involve partners from beyond the CRCOG constituency such as legislators at the state and federal level, state agency heads, other regional planning organizations, private, non-profit and academic institutions, etc. The impetus for formalizing a Sustainability Agenda for the Capitol Region comes not only from a desire to have an impact on sprawl and climate change at the regional level, but also a desire to position the Capitol Region to leverage future federal investments in climate change and livable communities.

Report on Zoning and Subdivision Referrals

Emily Moos made the report on zoning and subdivision referrals. Patrick Kennedy made and Sue Errickson seconded a motion to adopt the report on zoning and subdivision referrals. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Other Business

Mary Ellen Kowalewski asked for the Commission's interest in altering the RPC Meeting schedule from this date forward to hold meetings every two months instead of every month. Sue Errickson questioned how the zoning and subdivision referral process would function with this change. Mary Ellen Kowalewski stated that while there is a provision in the bylaws of the RPC allowing staff to forward comments prior to adoption by the Commission, staff could arrange to send the zoning and subdivision referral report electronically on months when the Commission does not meet in person, and provide an opportunity for input by RPC members. The Commission was receptive to these changes and agreed to commence with this meeting schedule and referral process. The Commission decided to hold their next meeting on December 17th, 2009.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.