

Capitol Region Council of Governments

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MINUTES OF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

February 18, 2010

ATTENDANCE

Members and Alternates

Sandra Bobowski
Sue Errickson
Patrick Kennedy
Thomas Manning
Karl Profe
Earle Monroe
Michael Seder
Lamont Aheart
Michele Camerota
Janet Ramsey
Andrew Kidd
Horace Brown

Town

Hartford
Tolland
South Windsor
Bolton
Windsor
Wethersfield
West Hartford
Vernon
Newington
Windsor Locks
Manchester
Manchester

Others Present

Mary Ellen Kowalewski	CRCOG
Emily Moos	CRCOG
Hiram Peck	Simsbury

Having reached a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.

Adoption of Minutes: December 17, 2009

A typographical correction was requested. A motion was made by Sue Errickson and seconded by Sandra Bobowski to adopt the minutes from the December 17th, 2009 meeting. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Recreating a Town Center: A Presentation on the Simsbury Town Center Charrette and Code Development by Hiram Peck, Director of Planning, Town of Simsbury

Hiram Peck, Simsbury's Director of Planning, explained the purpose of the Simsbury Town Center charrette, what was accomplished, and how that process is informing code development that is now underway. In early September 2009, the Town of Simsbury conducted a charrette to develop a unified vision for the Simsbury Town Center, and to begin to develop the design and regulatory framework that could make that vision a reality.

Mr. Peck shared parts of the final presentation that was made in September 2009 in the Town of Simsbury by Lee Einsweiler, the lead consultant from Code Studio who facilitated the charrette. The presentation gave an overview of the results of the public input throughout the process, outlined a potential alternative for the town center in the form of an illustrative site plan and also gave insight into

the economics/development potential of the area. By any measure of public input processes, the Simsbury Town Center Charrette was a great success. In total, more than 600 people signed in over the course of the week.

Update on CRCOG Projects

Mary Ellen Kowalewski presented an update presentation on CRCOG Projects of interest. This included an update on four different CRCOG projects and initiatives. The first was on the Color Ortho Photography flight, a project that had been funded through the Regional Performance Incentive Grant Program. Ms. Kowalewski stated that the final deliverable, 3” pixel resolution color ortho photos of the entire region should be available in April, 2010. The second was the MetroHartford Brownfields Assessment Program. CRCOG has received \$1.2 million in EPA assessment grant funding to the region since 2004. The program has funded environmental site assessments and remedial action plans for 16 projects in 9 communities in the combined CRCOG/MHA region. The third was the Regional On-Line Permitting Program. This program is an internet-based as it allows permit applicants in towns to apply for and receive permits, track status and conduct research online. This software will help towns manage the permit review, approval and inspections process. The project initially involves 9 CT communities, but can be expanded to any community in the state. The final project that Ms. Kowalewski reported on was the CRCOG Sustainable Communities Initiative. On January 26th, CRCOG officially launched its new *Sustainable Communities Initiative*. This newly-formed initiative will build on CRCOG’s many ongoing planning and municipal services activities. The mission of the *Sustainable Communities Initiative* is to develop and support integrated, regional approaches to environmental, housing, economic, transportation and municipal services by fostering planning, projects and investments that will meet the needs of our communities today, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

CRCOG will be undertaking a variety of activities over the next year that will support this mission, including establishing a Capitol Region Committee on Sustainability that will include members from many different sectors of the region, not just our municipal members. This Committee will help guide our involvement in new projects and programs, and will expand the network of agencies, businesses, and individuals working in support of regional goals.

The Sustainable Communities initiative is now online with a webpage on the CRCOG website and a Facebook page.

Report on Zoning and Subdivision Referrals:

Emily Moos gave a report on the zoning and subdivision referrals. She noted the referral on the interim zoning changes that the Town of Simsbury is making to ultimately reach their new form based code which Mr. Peck spoke about in his earlier presentation. A change was requested to Change “2020” to “2010” on Barkhamsted referral. A motion was made by Thomas Manning and seconded by Sandra Bobowski to endorse the referrals with the requested change. The motion was carried with a unanimous vote.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.