

Capitol Region Council of Governments

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MINUTES OF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

September 15, 2011

ATTENDANCE

Members and Alternates

Sandra Bobowski, Chairman
Sue Errickson
Horace Brown, Alternate
Earle R. Monroe
David Evens, Alternate
Thomas A. Manning
Bradley Pellissier
Patrick Kennedy
Al LeFebvre
Lamont Aheart
Eric Gelinas
Tom Derlinga
Andy Kidd
Karl R. Profe
Abraham Ford

Town

Hartford
Tolland
Manchester
Wethersfield
Canton
Bolton
Somers
Windsor
Bloomfield
Vernon
Canton
East Granby
Manchester
Windsor
Bloomfield

Others Present

Mary Ellen Kowalewski CRCOG
Emily Moos CRCOG
Sandy Fry CRCOG

Chair Sandra Bobowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Adoption of Minutes: May 19, 2011

A motion was made by Bradley Pellissier and seconded by Thomas Manning to adopt the minutes of the May 19, 2011 meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.

Achieving a More Bikeable/Walkable Region—Update on Recent Capitol Region Activities

This presentation was made by Sandy Fry, Principal Transportation Planner, CRCOG. Ms. Fry provided an update on bike and pedestrian activities in the Capitol Region including an update on bicycle and pedestrian statistics, bike friendly communities in the Capitol Region including Simsbury and South Windsor, trails progress in several Capitol Region towns and a recent bike and pedestrian count initiative.

Sue Errickson asked whether the region has maps of the bikeable trails currently. Ms. Fry stated that with regard to the online mapping exercise, the CRCOG region's information has been provided by Rails to Trails and that Google Maps does now provide a bike route feature.

Ms. Fry stated that up next for the region is an update of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan which will refine trail recommendations, provide limited roadway recommendations and begin public outreach meetings. Ms. Fry stated that towns will be asked to review the current recommendations and provide input for the upcoming update.

Update on Activities Being Conducted Under the HUD Sustainable Knowledge Corridor Regional Planning Grant

Mary Ellen Kowalewski gave an update on the HUD Sustainable Knowledge Corridor Regional Planning Grant. She stated that a flyer had been created (and handed out to RPC members) that outlines the major project areas of the grant and the consortium. She stated that work has begun on many of the projects associated with the grant and that more information can be found on the Sustainable Knowledge Corridor page on the CRCOG website.

Report on Zoning and Subdivision Referrals

Emily Moos gave the report on the zoning and subdivision referrals, including a supplemental memo distributed at this meeting. Sue Errickson made a motion to approve the report as presented. Bradley Pellissier seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

What's New in My Town – An Opportunity for Members to Report on Local Planning and Development Activities of Interest to the RPC

Municipal reports this month included:

- 1) East Granby has started a Farmers Market on Route 20 which has been a huge success and has even begun to attract farms from Massachusetts.
- 2) Work is proceeding on the redevelopment of the Manchester Parkade. The Town has approved a form-based overlay zone. The town is working with a developer to discuss mixed-use and commercial retail opportunities for this area. The town has begun to study bus lines in the area of town to see how they would serve any new development. There is a parallel effort to reconnect Broad Street with the Parkade site, and look at dropping the utilities below ground in this area.
- 3) Bloomfield is completing the renovation of their middle school.
- 4) Hartford is working toward completing a new public safety complex which will be operated on a fuel cell generator and the city will be selling energy back to CL&P
- 5) Wethersfield has endorsed development of two motels.
- 6) Somers is looking into incorporating language on development bonds into their zoning regulations and would like information on this from other towns or CRCOG.

Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.