

# Capitol Region Council of Governments

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

## MINUTES OF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

November 17, 2011

### ATTENDANCE

#### Members and Alternates

Sandra Bobowski  
Brad Pellissier  
Linda Keith  
Earle Munroe  
Sue Errickson  
Karle Profe  
Lamont Aheart  
Horace Brown  
Thomas Manning  
Eric Gelinis

#### Town

Hartford  
Somers  
Avon  
Wethersfield  
Tolland  
Windsor  
Vernon  
Manchester  
Bolton  
Canton

#### Others Present

Mary Ellen Kowalewski      CRCOG  
Emily Moos                      CRCOG

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

#### Adoption of Minutes: September 15, 2011

A motion was made by Sue Errickson and seconded by Brad Pellissier to adopt the minutes of the September 15, 2011 meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.

#### Planners All Atwitter: Social Media's Public Engagement Potential—Presentation by Emily Moos, Senior Planner and Policy Analyst

Emily Moos gave a presentation on the Social Media effort that CRCOG has undertaken as a part of its Sustainable Capitol Region Initiative. CRCOG worked with a consulting team as a part of a year-long grant of technical assistance from CL&P to municipalities and regional agencies wishing to begin using social media as a way of communication with the public. Ms. Moos outlined the successes, obstacles and best practices that CRCOG has experienced in using Facebook, Twitter and Linked-In to promote Sustainable Capitol Region programs and mission.

#### Civic Engagement/Public Outreach Plan for the Sustainable Knowledge Corridor Project—Presentation by Mary Ellen Kowalewski, Director of Policy and Planning, and Emily Moos, Senior Planner and Policy Analyst

Mary Ellen Kowalewski and Emily Moos gave a presentation on the public outreach and engagement strategies which have been employed this far in the Sustainable Knowledge Corridor Project. Mary Ellen Kowalewski outlined the approach that has been taken to communicate the concepts of Sustainability to the broader public. She described an exercise undertaken by the Knowledge Corridor Consortium to vet the terms "Live, Grow, Prosper, Connect" as an entry into what sustainability means to people in everyday life, through conversation with experts in the fields related to sustainability and sustainable communities. These terms and their

corresponding explanations have been refined and utilized in print materials distributed at public meetings and engagement sessions.

Emily Moos presented Metroquest, an online survey software that is being utilized in the Knowledge Corridor Project to gain broad public input on regional planning priorities. Ms. Moos showed the functionality of the software and described the three survey phases that will utilize Metroquest throughout the course of the Knowledge Corridor project.

Mary Ellen Kowalewski and Emily Moos encourage RPC members to get involved by doing the Metroquest survey, visiting the soon-to-be unveiled project website at [www.sustainableknowledgecorridor.org](http://www.sustainableknowledgecorridor.org) or by following the project on Facebook (Facebook-New England's Sustainable Knowledge Corridor) and Twitter (twitter@NewEngland\_SKC #KnowCo).

**Group Activity: Live, Connect, Grow, Prosper**

Mary Ellen Kowalewski led commission members in a discussion of the terminology, Live, Connect, Grow, Prosper. Commission members were asked whether these terms and their corresponding definitions are an adequate public outreach campaign to explain the concepts of sustainability. Comments of commission members were recorded and will be taken into consideration as public outreach for the Knowledge Corridor project continues.

**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. Linda Keith made a motion to approve the report as presented. Brad Pellissier seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Sue Errickson requested that CRCOG staff review a comment made for a referral regarding multi-family developments in the neighborhood commercial zone. She stated that the comment on this amendment was not consistent with what is stated in the Tolland POCD.

**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) Tolland – the town has begun a “Neighbors helping Neighbors” initiative in the aftermath of the October snowstorm. The town manager is collecting the names of those who are unable to clear the brush from the sides of their roads or properties and neighbors are helping in that effort.
- 2) Hartford – the planning and zoning commission has recently seen and approved numerous (6-8) restaurants in different neighborhoods.

**Other Business**

Mary Ellen Kowalewski distributed and reviewed the RPC meeting schedule for 2012.

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