

## **Meeting Minutes**

Regional Planning Commission (RPC)  
of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG)  
49 Leavenworth Street – 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Waterbury, CT  
6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 2, 2019

**Attendance:** Gary Giordano, Bethlehem; David White, Bristol; Lori Rotella, Naugatuck; Margus Laan, Plymouth; Jim Baldwin, Seymour; Virginia Harger (by phone), Shelton; Jay Carow, Southbury; Jeremy Leifert, Thomaston.

**Staff:** Gabriel Filer, Transportation Planner; Mark Nielsen, Planning Director; Joanna Rogalski, Senior Regional Planner

**Members of the Public:** 0

The meeting opened at 6:40 PM.

### **1. Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, Introductions, Public Participation**

- The pledge of allegiance was recited. All those present introduced themselves. A quorum was obtained for this meeting. No public comment.

### **2. Endorsement of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) to the Council for adoption. (motion)**

- Mark Nielsen discussed the MTP, comments received from the State DOT
- Air Quality Conformity Results reviewed and discussed, including the Greater CT Ozone Moderate Nonattainment Area, CT Portion of NY-NJ-CT Ozone Moderate Nonattainment Area, and CT portion of NY-NJ-CT PM 2.5 Attainment- Maintenance Area
- Discussion ensued and the following points were raised:
  - Air quality standards based on models and estimates, not actual use
  - Models take into account a mix of vehicle types; vehicle mix data from State Dept. of Motor Vehicles, history, turnover of fleet
  - Transportation Projects identified through vetting process which began in Summer 2018
  - The I-84 peak hour delays are based on data collected before the completion of the Waterbury lane widening
  - Edits suggested to pages 186 and 187

Motion: To endorse the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) to the Council for adoption.

Motion made by Gary Giordano, seconded by David White.

Vote: unanimous.

Motion passed.

- Mark Nielsen also discussed the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program funding for transportation alternatives (TA). The program is solicitations for new small-scale transportation projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The program is competitive and funds are allocated by Urbanized Area (UA). There are portions of four UA's in the NVCOG region. Final proposals are due May 9 2019.

### **3. Discussion of the NVCOG Social Media Presence**

- Gabriel Filer discussed recent work toward establishing a greater social media presence for NVCOG, which includes the Facebook page, Twitter account, new website and newsletter.
- New website is being constructed and will be linked to a newsletter.
- Newsletter will have three sections, one devoted to the NVCOG member municipalities
- The NVCOG staff asks that the RPC follow the NVCOG on social media outlets.

#### 4. Discussion of the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD)

- Joanna Rogalski discussed current plans and strategies for the NVCOG Regional POCD
- Goal to complete Final Draft of the POCD by April 1, 2019, before the beginning of the 2020 US Census
- Public outreach included attendance at the following Waterbury community groups – 3/18 East End Community Club, 4/9 Town Plot Neighborhood Assoc
- NVCOG staff to meet with P&Z Commissions over the summer
- NVCOG staff to attend major festivals and farmers markets where permitted
- Consult with municipal planners one on one
- The RPC representatives were asked to recommend one event or festival in their municipalities for NVCOG to attend with a booth

#### 5. Administrative Items

Joanna Rogalski led discussion on the following topics:

- a. Adoption of October 2, 2018 Meeting minutes (motion)  
Motion made by Margus Laan, seconded by Jay Carow. Abstentions: 1 – Jeremy Leifert  
Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.
- b. Adoption of February 5, 2019 Meeting minutes (motion) – amendment suggested by Lori Rotella – Lori Rotella attended by phone  
Motion to adopt the February 5, 2019 meeting minutes as amended  
Motion made by Jeremy Leifert, seconded by David White. Abstentions: 2 – Jim Baldwin, Gary Giordano  
Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.
- c. Referrals - 22 received since last meeting, two (2) regionally significant, Middlebury, Woodbury
- d. Correspondence – none

#### 6. Roundtable - Points of Interest/Local Activities

##### **Bethlehem – Gary Giordano, Elector**

Quiet regarding planning and development issues. Recommended the following town events for NVCOG outreach: Bethlehem Fair (Private event), Garlic Festival (Private event), Christmas Town Festival

##### **Southbury – Jay Carow, Zoning Commission**

The Public Works department has begun to erect steel guide rails along scenic routes as per their understanding of DOT specifications. Group of citizens feel wooden guide rails would be less intrusive for scenic routes, filed cease and desist order to halt Public Works installation of guide rails. Public debate and research over the types of guide-rails to install along scenic routes – steel or wood. There is a need for policy on guide-rails which meet Department of Transportation specifications. Recommend NVCOG attend town events related to car shows.

##### **Thomaston – Jeremy Leifert, Land Use Administrator**

Recent amendments to match new regulations regarding telecommunications towers/small wireless facilities, other new zoning amendments regarding signs and solar panels. New application for brew pub in the former Seth Thomas factory building. Recommend NVCOG attend the following town events: Town Carnival in July, Concerts in the Park, Light up the Town, Opera House shows.

**Naugatuck – Lori Rotella, Town Planner**

Beginning to review the POCD: needs to be updated by 2023. Subdivision reg's have not been updated since 2011. There have been some amendments to the subdivision regulations. Recommend NVCOG attend the following borough events: Street Festival on May 18<sup>th</sup>, Mission 22 (Sept 28), Events Center at Job Fair (Easter Festival, Cabin Fever, Bike and Motorcycle Show). Recommended staff contact the Board of Relators to learn about their events.

**Bristol – David White, Planning Commissioner**

Concern about asbestos abatement at the Memorial Blvd middle school which is planned to be re-used as an Arts Magnet School. Recommend NVCOG attend the following city events: Car shows, Mum Festival, Bristol Blues collegiate baseball league (April – September).

**Plymouth – Margus Laan, Town Planner**

Planning and Zoning Commission approved adaptive re-use school building conversion to 28 apartments with an additional 30 new units built on the site, but one neighbor is suing this decision. The July 2018 moratorium on Zoning map amendments ended in February 2019; a second moratorium is being considered. Application submitted for zoning map amendment to an industrial use regarding a property near Wolcott municipal boundary. Recommend NVCOG attend the Terryville Country Fair (August).

**Seymour – Jim Baldwin, Building Inspector**

Partial demolition completed of the Tri-Town Shopping Center, the Planning and Zoning Commission will be having a public hearing on proposed changes to mixed use zoning which would add flexibility in uses, introduce mixed uses. Recommend NVCOG attend the Pumpkin Festival which is a very civic minded event.

**Shelton – Virginia Harger, Planning and Zoning Commission, Chairperson**

Currently Planning and Zoning Commission reviewing Planned Development District regulations and proposing adjustments, the Long Hill Ave proposal is being re-submitted for property bisected by Route . Recommend NVCOG attend the following town events: Concerts on the Green, the biggest concert is July 4<sup>th</sup> in downtown area and Riverwalk. Contact Parks and Recreation Department for more information.

**7. Other**

None

**8. Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn meeting.

Motion made by Gary Giordano, seconded by Jeremy Leifert.

Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted by  
Joanna Rogalski, Regional Planner  
NVCOG