

APPROVED 6/16/2016 MINUTES

**WESTERN CONNECTICUT
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

Ridgefield Library, 472 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877

Public access by phone was available at the WestCOG Stamford Office

Chairman Matthew Knickerbocker - Vice Chairman Jayme Stevenson
Secretary Susan Chapman - Treasurer Patricia Llodra

MEMBERS ATTENDING

- Bethel First Selectman Matthew Knickerbocker
- Bridgewater Absent
- Brookfield First Selectman Stephen Dunn
- Danbury Absent
- Darien First Selectman Jayme Stevenson
- Greenwich First Selectman Peter Tesei

- New Canaan Absent
- New Fairfield First Selectman Susan Chapman
- New Milford Mayor David Gronbach
- Newtown First Selectman Patricia Llodra
- Norwalk Development Director Elizabeth Stocker (non-voting)
- Redding First Selectman Julia Pemberton

- Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi
- Sherman First Selectman Clay Cope
- Stamford Mayor David Martin
- Weston First Selectman Nina Daniel
- Westport First Selectman James Marpe
- Wilton Chief Financial Officer Anne Kelly-Lenz (proxy)

OTHERS ATTENDING

Stamford Chief of Staff Michael Pollard, CTDOT Supervising Planner Roxane Fromson, Weston resident Dr. Margaret Wirtenberg, CT DECD Permit Ombudsman Maya Loewenberg, and Ryan Carey and Will Poundstone of the Ridgefield First Selectman's Office.

Also, Ellen Graham of Senator Blumenthal's Office, Tracey Alston of Eversource, Ridgefield citizen Isette Brendza, Stephanie Scavelli of the Norwalk Transit District, and WestCOG staff members Francis Pickering, Lis Esposito, Soumya Sudhakar, Mike Towle, Patty Payne, Carl Zimmerman, Rob Sachnin and Jon Chew.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 PM by Chairman Matthew Knickerbocker.

CT DECD OMBUDSMAN SERVICES

The Chairman introduced Maya Loewenberg, Permit Ombudsman for CT DECD, who made a PowerPoint presentation on this topic. She explained that the DECD Office of the Permit Ombudsman was created to expedite the state permit

application process for projects submitted to the DEEP, DPH and DOT. The results are modifications or waivers of procedural rules, she said.

However, applicants for the assistance must meet qualifying criteria which is determined by the number of jobs created, project location and other responsible growth criteria. These also relate to creating at least 50 in enterprise zones or at least 100 jobs elsewhere. The presentation was followed by questions, answers and discussion.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dr. Margaret Wirtenberg spoke to regional approaches for public health officials to assist seniors aging in-place at their homes.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 5/19/2016 Minutes: There was discussion in which two errors were identified in the draft 5/19 minutes. First, David Martin is shown as not in attendance but was present. And second, the description of the proposed bylaw amendment was inaccurate.

Then on a motion made by Julia Pemberton and seconded by Clay Cope, the minutes of the meeting of 5/19/2016 were unanimously approved as corrected to address the two concerns, except for an abstention by Anne Kelly-Lenz.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Financial Report Ending 4/30/2016: The Financial Report as an agenda attachment was reviewed. Comments were provided by Patty Payne.

Update from Drug Task Force: Task Force Coordinator Liz Esposito reviewed suggestions from the Drug Task Force as summarized in an agenda attachment.

Members discussed selected recommendations, particularly creation of a juvenile review board to divert at-risk youth from the court system.

Update on Community Rating System: Mike Towle addressed this issue, reviewing how the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS) includes a voluntary incentive for municipal floodplain management to exceed minimum standards.

The result is that policy holder premiums are slightly reduced. For some months WestCOG has been providing coordination and technical assistance to municipalities interested in CRS.

Stamford, Westport and Newtown are full participants in the CRS program and are in the best position thus far, he said. Projections show that the next group of municipalities capable of the greatest reduction in total premiums are Danbury, Norwalk, Darien and Greenwich. Staff will assist if they wish to join the CRS program.

Mr. Towle also discussed the process by which FEMA is revising flood risk zone maps in southern parts of the region.

ADJOURNMENT

Matt Knickerbocker stated that there is no July meeting planned. There being no further business, on a motion made by Rudy Marconi and seconded by Nina Daniel and voted unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 PM.