

APPROVED Council Minutes

for the 01/16/2019 Regular Meeting

Held at the Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association
27 Governor Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut

Chairman Jayme Stevenson - Vice Chairman Rudolph Marconi

Treasurer Lynne Vanderslice - Secretary Julia Pemberton

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bethel..... First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker

Bridgewater..... First Selectman Curtis Read

Brookfield..... First Selectman Steve Dunn

Danbury..... Absent

Darien..... First Selectman Jayme Stevenson

Greenwich..... First Selectman Fred Camillo

New Canaan..... First Selectman Kevin Moynihan

New Fairfield..... First Selectman Pat Del Monaco

New Milford..... Mayor Pete Bass

Newtown..... First Selectman Dan Rosenthal

Norwalk..... Mayor Harry Rilling

Redding..... First Selectman Julia Pemberton

Ridgefield..... First Selectman Rudy Marconi

Sherman..... First Selectman Don Lowe

Stamford..... Absent

Weston..... First Selectman Chris Spaulding

Westport..... First Selectman James Marpe

Wilton..... First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice

OTHERS ATTENDING

WestCOG staff members in attendance were Kristin Hadjstilianos, Charles Vidich, Kevin Mahoney, Patty Payne, Kristin Floberg, Vicky Ricks and Executive Director Francis Pickering. Rich Schreiner and Alex Dashev of HARTransit, Ellen Graham from Senator Blumenthal's office, Andrea Rynn and Rowena Bergmans from Nuvance Health, James Root from Sierra Club, Rebecca Mucchetti, Susan Consentino and Robert Hendrick from the Ridgefield Planning and Zoning Commission, residents Karen Heller, Dawn Jolly, Bob Knight, Ashley Audino, Karen Martin, David Budet, Michael Valeri, Sharon Calitro, Harris Falk and Christie Stewart were also in attendance as well as Samantha LaBonne from Eversource and Meg Haffner from the Kennedy Center.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:43pm by Chairman Jayme Stevenson.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Sam LaBonne from Eversource gave an update on some programs offered to help manage energy bills including Budget Billing, Winter Protection, Matching Payments and the New Start Program. Customers are encouraged to call your local office to get more information. David Budet, resident from Brookfield, gave a statement about 5G installation near his home. Bob Knight from the Ridgefield Economic Development Committee spoke about 5G and suggested each community complete a needs assessment for correct 5G installation. Michael Velari, resident from Danbury, was given a notice about getting 5G installation on a utility pole on his property and is currently filing an objection. Dawn Jolly, resident of Ridgefield and the founding and managing member of CT Freedom Alliance spoke about medical concerns regarding 5G installation.

PUBLIC HEARING

Kristin Floberg from WestCOG gave a short presentation summarizing the comments received on the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of December 19, 2019 Minutes: After review and on a motion made by Bridgewater First Selectman Curtis Read and seconded by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe, the minutes of the 12/19/2019 meeting were unanimously approved, with abstentions made by Darien First Selectman Jayme Stevenson, Redding First Selectman Julia Pemberton, Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker, Newtown First Selectman Dan Rosenthal and Westport First Selectman James Marpe.

Resolution to adopt the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development: After review by WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi, the resolution was unanimously approved.

Letter of Support for HVA Still River Watershed Plan: After review by WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering and on a motion made by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe and seconded by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn, the letter of support was unanimously approved.

Letter of Support for Stamford APA Award: After review by WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering and on a motion made by Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker, the letter of support was unanimously approved.

Quarterly Financial Report ending 12/31/19: After review by WestCOG Finance Director Patty Payne and on a motion made by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn and seconded by Bridgewater First Selectman Curtis Read, the quarterly financial report was unanimously approved.

Legislative Priorities: After review by WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn, the legislative priorities for 2020 were unanimously approved.

Nominating Committee Report and Election of Officers: After a review of candidates made by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by New Milford Mayor Pete Bass, it was unanimously approved to elect Rudy Marconi as Chairman (*replacing Jayme Stevenson*); Jayme Stevenson as Vice-Chairman (*replacing Rudy Marconi*); Julia Pemberton as Treasurer (*replacing Lynne Vanderslice*); and Lynne Vanderslice as Secretary (*replacing Julia Pemberton*).

Employee Introductory Period Revision: After review by WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering and on a motion made by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn and seconded by Bridgewater First Selectman Curtis Read, the WestCOG employee introductory period revision was unanimously approved.

LOTICIP Over-Programming: WestCOG Senior Project Manager Kevin Mahoney presented an overview of the LOTICIP Programming. He stated that by endorsing a project, the COG is not required to reserve funds from its allocation. The CT DOT has committed to funding LOTICIP funds in exceeding 100% of allocations for two other COGs. He further recommended that additional LOTICIP projects be solicited. WestCOG members requested more information (e.g., DOT Commitment to Fund) be made available on previously-endorsed LOTICIP projects. On a motion made by New Milford Mayor Pete Bass and seconded by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe, the COG members unanimously agreed that the COG will not consider the LOTICIP allocation as a “ceiling” and continue to endorse projects and cost adjustments.

LOTICIP Adjustment: WestCOG Senior Project Manager Kevin Mahoney presented a requested endorsement of a cost adjustment for Ridgefield Farmingville Road and Ligi’s Way LOTICIP project from \$1,530,000 to \$2,810,000. On a motion made by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn and seconded by Redding First Selectman Julia Pemberton, the COG unanimously approved the increase.

INFORMATION ITEMS

RPIP Grant Update: WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering provided an update on the status of the RPIP Grant proposals.

OTHER BUSINESS: Vice Chairman Rudy Marconi wanted to thank Jayme Stevenson for her role as Chairman of the COG.

ADJOURNMENT

The next COG meeting will be held on Thursday, February 13th in Hartford during our Legislative Luncheon. On a motion made by Redding First Selectman Julia Pemberton and seconded by Westport First Selectman James Marpe, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 2:05pm.