

APPROVED Council Minutes

for the 1/21/2021 Regular Meeting
Videoconference

*Chairman Rudolph Marconi - Vice Chairman Jayme Stevenson
Treasurer Julia Pemberton - Secretary Lynne Vanderslice*

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.....Selectman Lauren Rabin

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..... Chief of Staff Michael Pollard
Weston..... First Selectman Chris Spaulding
Westport First Selectman James Marpe
Wilton..... First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice

OTHERS ATTENDING

WestCOG staff members in attendance were Mike Towle, Kristin Hadjstylianos, Todd Fontanella, Nicole Sullivan, Kristin Floberg, Kevin Mahoney, Nick Trabka, Tucker Beckett, Victoria Ricks, Patty Payne, Charles Vidich, and Executive Director Francis Pickering. Rick Schreiner and Alex Dashev from HARTransit, Kathryn Faraci from CTDOT, Kim Morton from Norwalk Transit, Tracey Alston from Eversource, Meg Haffner from the Kennedy Center, Jennine Lupo from Representative Hayes office, Greenwich Planning and Zoning Chairman Margarita Alban, Martin Henry from Henry, Raymond and Thompson, Victoria Brudz from Milone and MacBroom, and Emily Basham from Connecticut Green Bank were also in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:53pm by Chairman Rudy Marconi.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Emily Basham, from Connecticut Green Bank, gave an update on the Solar MAP (Marketplace Assistance Program), which provides assistance to municipalities interested in pursuing solar power energy savings. If any municipality is interested in getting involved in the program, please reach out to CT Green Bank. Tracey Alston, from Eversource, announced a new rebate program for municipalities that need to purchase freezers for storage of the Covid-19 vaccine. She also gave an update on another program Eversource is implementing, which is the availability of Kilowatt Meter Kits at local libraries for checkout and customers can take them home to identify energy drains in the home.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of December 17, 2020 Minutes: After review and on a motion made by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe seconded by New Milford Mayor Pete Bass, the minutes of the 12/17/2020 meeting were unanimously approved.

FY 19-20 Annual Audit: After review by WestCOG Treasurer Julia Pemberton, and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Bridgewater First Selectman Curtis Read, the FY 19-20 Annual Audit was unanimously approved with a suggestion being made by Darien First Selectman Jayme Stevenson to create a formal investment policy for any additional surplus funds.

BUILD Grant Matching Fund Resolution: After review by WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering, and on a motion was made by Norwalk Mayor Harry Rilling and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker, the resolution to designate \$100,000 from WestCOG's fund balance to satisfy local matching requirements was unanimously approved.

Quarterly Financial Report: After review by WestCOG Financial Director Patty Payne, and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Darien First Selectman Jayme Stevenson, the quarterly financial report was unanimously approved.

Legislative Priorities: After review by WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering, and on a motion made by Redding First Selectman Julia Pemberton and seconded by New Milford Mayor Pete Bass, the Legislative Priorities for 2021 were unanimously approved and will be presented to our Legislators at the February Legislative meeting.

Housing Affordability Plan(s): After review by WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering, a motion was made by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker to create a Regional Housing Affordability Plan by WestCOG staff and present it at a future meeting. It was unanimously approved.

LOTICIP Adjustment: WestCOG Senior Project Manager Kevin Mahoney presented a requested adjustment to the COG's LOTICIP project endorsements. On a motion made by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn and seconded by New Milford Mayor Pete Bass, it was unanimously approved to increase the Brookfield Streetscape Project Phase 4 to \$3,050,000.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Regional Service Update: WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering gave an update on the regional service projects that WestCOG staff are currently working on. WestCOG has had good involvement in the Public Safety Project. The Animal Control and Waste Management Projects are continuing to progress. WestCOG will report on these activities to OPM by March 1 and coordinate with its peers in reporting about opportunities in the areas of PSAP and property assessment/tax collection. WestCOG staff have been working with Planning and Zoning Commissions to advance housing diversity.

UCONN Circa Resilient CT: WestCOG Associate Planner Nicole Sullivan reminded COG Members of the upcoming workshop on Monday January 25th. Victoria Brudz, from Milone and MacBroom, gave an update on the milestones and progress made on the Resilient CT Project, including identification of the Zones of Shared Risk and work on the Climate Change Vulnerability Index (CCVI) for the region.

OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The next COG meeting will be held on Thursday, February 18th and it will include our annual Legislative Meeting. On a motion made Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Wilton First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 1:53pm.