

## MINUTES

**Regional Planning Commission  
of the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley**  
COGCNV Conference Room  
60 North Main Street – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Waterbury, CT  
Tuesday, *January 10*, 2006, 7:00 P.M.

**Attendance:** Ellen Samoska and Maria Hill, Bethlehem; Martin Cobern, Cheshire; Thomas Gormley, Middlebury; Gil Graveline, Prospect; Harmon Andrews, Southbury; Robert Flanagan, Thomaston; James Sequin, Waterbury; Mary Barton, Watertown; Linda Fercodini, Wolcott. **Staff:** Peter Dorpalen, Executive Director; Virginia Mason, Assistant Director; Michael Flood, Regional Planner; Samuel Gold, Regional Planner

### 1. Roll Call, Introductions

Bob Flanagan called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M Those present introduced themselves and recited the pledge of allegiance. There was no public comment.

### 2. Administrative Items

- a. *Approval of November 1, 2005, Minutes* — On a motion by Mary Barton, seconded by Maria Hill, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the November 1, 2005 meeting.

- b. *Correspondence* — Peter Dorpalen summarized recent COGCNV correspondence

November 1, 2005 Letter to Nancy Van Norden welcoming her to the RPC as a representative from the Southbury Planning Commission.

November 4, 2005 Email from Bob Flanagan to Virginia Mason and Glenda Prentiss complementing staff on maps and assistance on Thomaston's Plan of Conservation and Development.

November 7, 2005 Letter to Joseph Langer. Yeshiva Gedolah of Waterbury, in response to his inquiry about establishing express bus service from Waterbury to Bridgeport.

November 18, 2005 Letter to Naugatuck notifying them that ConnDOT select the Borough's previously submitted Transportation Enhancement project, the Naugatuck River Pedestrian and Bicycle Greenway, for funding.

November 18, 2005 Letter to Beacon Falls notifying them that ConnDOT selected the town's previously submitted Transprotation Enhancement project, the Beacon Falls downtown plan, for funding.

December 2, 2005 Letters to Cheshire and Waterbury notifying them that none of the three local road accident reduction projects were reccomended for funding this year.

December 5, 2005 Letter to Watertown Planning with comments from staff on the draft Watertown Plan of Conservation and Development.

### 3. Regional Emergency Planning

- a. *Regional emergency plan* — Virginia Mason provided an update on regional emergency planning initiatives which began in FY 2003. There are currently four major programs which are overseen by a regional emergency planning committee (EPC) consisting of first responders.

The region will be using \$20,000 in grant funding to hire a consultant to develop a regional emergency response plan to coordinate and complement local municipal emergency plans. The firm Woodward & Curtin has been recommended as the consultant. The regional plan will be utilized by first responders during a tabletop exercise being planned for September. The regional plan will be one of five regional plans developed statewide. COGCNV is within the Northwestern emergency planning area.

COGCNV has also worked to create CERTs, Community Emergency Response Teams, for Wolcott, Naugatuck, Middlebury, Thomaston, and Woodbury. Funds are provided for training in areas such as creating a shelter, managing traffic, and administering CPR. Other towns are eligible to create their own CERT teams. COGCNV hopes to organize a regional exercise during the spring.

- b. *Disaster Mitigation Planning* — Virginia Mason reported that COGCNV has been working with Oxford, Middlebury, and Waterbury to develop a disaster mitigation plan which will include non-terrorism related hazards and risks such as dams and wetlands. Town officials and COGCNV staff have met with consultants to develop lists and mapping of potential hazards. This information will be used to apply for future FEMA funding programs. Towns will be responsible for updating the data every five years and for approving the list and maps with the appropriate town council. FY 2005 funding is available to develop disaster mitigation plans for Cheshire, Wolcott, Waterbury, and Prospect. The remaining towns have sent letters to COGCNV expressing a desire to participate in the program.
- c. *Public Health Point of Distribution (POD) Emergency Exercise* — Virginia Mason reported that the Health & Medical subcommittee of the EPC is working with the state and the Center for Disease Control to develop the strategic national stockpile for mass vaccination. As part of the national plan there will be seven points of distribution within the state, including one at Pomperaug High School in Southbury. An exercise will be held on April 19<sup>th</sup> at Pomperaug High School for approximately four hours to simulate the operation of the POD. The Pomperaug Health District, organizing the event, is looking for about 300 volunteers.
- d. *Other Emergency Planning Issues and Projects* — Virginia Mason provided a handout on the WARN reverse communication emergency system. The system will contact residents via email, phone, or fax to notify them of local emergencies relevant to their family or home.

### 4. Transportation

- a. *Municipal Grant Program for Elderly and Disabled Transportation Services* — Mike Flood reported on a newly funded program which will allocate five million dollars statewide to municipalities for expanding dial-a-ride services for the elderly and disabled. All municipalities in the state are eligible to apply for an allocation of funds based on their population age 60 and over and their area as a percentage of the state totals. Annual funding ranges from \$7,744 for Beacon Falls to \$96,661 for Waterbury.

The eight municipalities which are members of the Greater Waterbury Transit District have signed memorandums of understanding to apply for grant funds through the transit district. GWTD will coordinate the expanded services provided by the grant. Flood met with senior service directors from the remaining five COGCNV towns and discussed the coordination of

services between them. Municipalities have the options of applying on their own, as part of transit district, or through a RPO such as COGCNV.

Application for the grant will be mailed to municipalities in late January and will be due to COGCNV on February 24, 2006. COGCNV will then review the applications before submittal to ConnDOT.

- b. *Naugatuck River Greenway* — Sam Gold reported that COGCNV has received funding of approximately \$20,000 for developing and placing educational signs along the Naugatuck River Greenway. COGCNV has hired an intern from the Yale School of Forestry to develop the environmentally focused educational material for the signs.
- c. *Bus Stop Study* — Sam Gold reported that COGCNV held a public meeting which provided an opportunity for public comment and question of the proposed changes to the Waterbury fixed route bus route plan.

## 5. Points of Interest/Local Activities

Cheshire — Martin Cobern reported that:

- The sewer connection moratorium has been rescinded. The Wiese Road developers are planning to sue the sewer authority due to the moratorium. Planning & Zoning activity has slowed down, in part due to the sewer moratorium.
- A new town planner has been hired.
- A public hearing was held on the sports complex proposed for the area at northern end of Highland Avenue.

Prospect — Gil Graveline reported that:

- A 365 unit active adult community is proposed off of Scott Road.

Southbury — Harmon Andrews reported that:

- The Southbury Training School has an aging population, and there are now less than 500 residents with no new residents since the early 1990's.
- The Stop & Shop plaza is generating a lot of traffic.
- The new library on Main Street South will open in February.
- A new office park is underway at I-84 exit 16.

Waterbury — Jim Sequin reported that:

- A smokestack of at least 110 feet has been proposed by Metcalf Paving, an asphalt recycling company located near the Mixmaster intersection. There is concern that a smoke stack this height would send smoke onto the upper deck of I-84.
- There is a proposal for a 119 unit apartment complex on Route 69.
- There is a proposal for a 38 unit develop on Byam Road near the Cheshire line.

Watertown — Mary Barton reported that:

- A sewer connection for a proposed age restricted development on Bunker Hill remains an issue.
- The Watertown Plan of Conservation & Development is nearing completion.

Wolcott — Linda Fercondini reported that:

- Two over 55 develops are underway. One development already has more than half of its units reserved.
- Zone changes are being considered for Wolcott Road.

## **6. Other**

Peter Dorpalen announced that Tom Gormley, Joseph McEvoy, Harmon Andrews, Mary Barton, and Sam Barto were recognized with Length of Service Awards from the Connecticut Federation of Planning & Zoning Agencies. Dorpalen presented those present with corrected award certificates. Bob Flanagan presented Gormley with a plaque recognizing his service as Chairman of the Regional Planning Commission.

Peter Dorpalen highlighted the COGCNV 2006 Legislative Position Statement which will be presented to state legislators at the February COGCNV meeting.

Virginia Mason distributed a handout announcing the date and location of upcoming Land Use Education seminars sponsored by COGCNV.

## **7. Adjournment**

At 8:01 P.M., On a motion by Mary Barton, seconded by Tom Gormley, it was unanimously VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by  
Michael Flood, Regional Planner

for

James Sequin,  
RPC Secretary