

MINUTES

Regional Planning Commission of the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley

COGCNV Conference Room
60 North Main Street – 3rd Floor
(Waterbury Savings Bank Building – North Lobby)
Waterbury, CT
7:00 P.M. Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Attendance: Richard Minnick, Beacon Falls; Ken Long, Middlebury; Joseph McEvoy, Naugatuck; Harold Cosgrove, Herman Schuler, Oxford; Harmon Andrews, Southbury; Val Bernardoni, Wolcott; Martin Overton, Woodbury. **Staff:** Peter Dorpalen, Executive Director; Virginia Mason, Assistant Director; Samuel Gold, Senior Planner; Joseph Perrelli, Regional Planner. **Guests:** William Johnson, Oxford.

1. Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, Introductions

2. Administrative Items

- a. *Approval of January 12, 2010 Minutes* — On a motion by Ken Long, seconded by Herman Schuler, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the January 12, 2010 meeting.

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

January 11, 2010	Memo from Regional Planner / GIS Specialist Jeff Cormier stating that he has taken another position and will be resigning as of January 28, 2010
January 15, 2010	Letter to COGCNV Chairman Tom Dunn from RPC Chairman Martin Cobern expressing the RPC's concern that the RPC was bypassed relative to COGCNV's approval of the Waterbury Transportation Center. He noted that one of [the RPC's] principal roles is to act as a planning advisory board to guide COG in making decisions regarding regional planning.
January 22, 2010	Letter to Mayor Jarjura thanking him and his staff for meeting with COGCNV staff for a follow-up meeting on the Waterbury Transportation Center to discuss feasible options
February 3, 2010	Email to COG members announcing the latest round of the DEP open space program (May 3 deadline).
February 5, 2010	Email from Jim Ryan of the CEDS program for the Naugatuck Valley Corridor requesting that towns submit a new capital investment questionnaire for economic development projects to be included for funding under the CEDS program. The deadline for submitting a project is March 5, 2010
February 9, 2010	Email from Peter Dorpalen in response to a legislative request on the cost savings to towns from participation in the regional council of governments

February 10, 2010	Letter to Oxford stating that its greenway trail proposals are in conformance with the Regional Plan
February 11, 2010	Letter of support for Waterbury's earmark application for the design and construction of a portion of Waterbury's Naugatuck River Greenway project.
February 19, 2010	Letter to Thomaston First Selectman in support of Thomaston's earmark application for track and field improvements to Nystrom's Park
February 19, 2010	Letter of support for Naugatuck's earmark application for a public parking garage for the downtown redevelopment project, Renaissance Place.
February 23, 2010	Letter to Cathe Sherman welcoming her to the RPC as Wolcott's representative appointed by the Wolcott Planning and Zoning Commission
February 23, 2010	Letter to Val Bernardino welcoming him to the RPC as Wolcott's representative appointed by the mayor
February 24, 2010	Letter from Virginia Mason to the Prospect Water Pollution Control Authority with comments and suggestions for Prospect's sewer service plan

3. Defining the Role of the Regional Planning Commission

Peter Dorpalen discussed the letter that was sent by the RPC chair to the COGCNV on the role of the RPC in the planning process. Referring to a memorandum, Mr. Dorpalen provided a brief overview of the history of the RPO and RPA before the merge. He also discussed the role of the RPC in reviewing land use and transportation issues prior to COGCNV approval. He recommended that the COGCNV bylaws and operating policies be revised to better define the RPC's role.

4. Transportation Planning

- a. *Naugatuck River Greenway Study* — Sam Gold reported on the status of the Naugatuck River Greenway trail. On February 9, there was a regional greenway routing study advisory committee meeting to discuss some of the consultant's preliminary routing plans, which were displayed on the walls during the RPC meeting. Once the draft route through the region is determined, phasing and cost estimates will be developed. Gold distributed flyers for the upcoming public information meetings in Beacon Falls on March 23 and Watertown on March 24, and asked for members to weigh in on the preferred logo for the greenway.
- b. *Status of Transportation Projects and Funding* — Peter Dorpalen reported the status of transportation funding from CTDOT. The I-84 project in eastern Waterbury, which was originally scheduled for construction a few years back, has been postponed indefinitely. The federal highway program that would have been used to fund the project is insufficient to cover all of the state's transportation needs. It has largely been absorbed by projects along the I-95 corridor, including replacement of the Q-Bridge in New Haven and the Moses Wheeler bridge in Stratford.
Mr. Dorpalen also reported that all of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (ARRA) projects are moving forward with the majority beginning construction in the Spring. CTDOT has been talking about the likelihood of another stimulus bill, which would require an even faster turnaround. Projects that would be eligible for this funding stream would probably be in design already at the CTDOT with no permits or rights-of-way issues.

- c. *Upcoming regional transportation planning work program* — Sam Gold presented the Executive Summary of the upcoming UPWP. The new work program will include assistance with the I-84 WoW Environmental Impact Study, the I-84, Route 7 & Route 8 Diversion Plans, and design work on the regional Naugatuck River Greenway. In response to questions about the role of rail in COGCNV's work program, Mr. Gold discussed the Waterbury Branch line study and reported on its preliminary findings.

5. Emergency Planning

- a. *I-84, Routes 7 & 8 Diversion Plan* — Joe Perrelli discussed the progress of the DEMHS Region 5 diversion plan that was that was part of the FY 2008 spending plan. Nine responses came in through a request for qualifications. The consultant selection committee will review these responses and select up to five firms to submit proposals. Interviews will be conducted in April, and a consultant will be recommended to the COGCNV.

6. Points of Interest/Local Activities

Naugatuck — Joe McEvoy reported that:

- The borough has been working on a proposal to erect a parking garage on Maple Street near Water Street as part of the downtown redevelopment efforts.
- The Board of Education Has been discussing the possibility of closing down Salem School and redistricting its students in an effort to save money.

Wolcott — Val Bernardoni reported that:

- P & Z is reviewing a 30,000 gallon propane tank in a residential zone. It's uncertain how the tank was built without anyone knowing about it, but it is certainly in violation of a number of regulations.
- The Development & Industrial Commission, which Mr. Bernardoni is a part of, will be making an effort to reach out to the business community. They are interested in developing a website and coordinating appropriate business signage in locations where multiple businesses exist.

Oxford — Harmon Andrews and Herman Schuler reported that:

- Cocchiola Paving wants to bring in a rock crusher to their on property on Route 34, but will have to present their plans to P & Z again, since it was not part of their original application.
- P & Z has decided to turn a combined residential/commercial zone along Route 67 into commercial. Some residents are seeking an appeal of this decision
- Cast Global started building in the Woodruff Hill Industrial Park. B-United, a local liquor distributor, is looking to expand its business. Cavalry Brewing, a microbrewery, just opened on the other side of town.
- Technology Park's developers are digging with the intent of installing a 2,800-foot roadway that would include a bridge, extending north through their property to Benson Road.
- Chassis Dynamics, notable for the design and construction of bobsleds for the US Olympic team, will be moving its operations to North Carolina.
- The P & Z is reviewing a referral on the use of accessory units.

Woodbury — Martin Overton reported that:

- The final draft of the master plan of conservation and development is in its final draft.
- The new first selectman will make economic development a high priority in light of commercial vacancies in town. The P & Z is very interested in putting together workshops on alternative energy and defining allowances and limits for its use in certain areas.

Middlebury — Ken Long reported that:

- There was a shakeup on the P & Z Commission after the chairman stepped down.
- Work on the Long Meadow Road bridge will begin soon. There was a meeting today with the CT DOT and the contractor. Construction is expected to begin in April.
- The EDC Chair scheduled a local business forum to try and help businesses that may be struggling in this economy. The scheduled date was snowed out, but he will be planning the forum for another time.
- The town is holding a referendum tonight on a new radio communication system.

Southbury — Harmon Andrews reported that:

- The town has purchased more energy-efficient bulbs to light up Main Street to save money on energy costs.
- Michael's Jewelry store has closed down. The town has seen far fewer new business applications come in given the recent economic climate.
- Watermark at East Hill nursing home is building a new pool. They also have plans for building 150 single family units on 40 acres.
- The Selectmen are setting up a committee to attract film developers to town.
- The town will do a revaluation in 2012.
- The town still has a 205 acre lot available for development off of I-84, Exit 14.

Beacon Falls — Richard Minnick reported that:

- The P & Z Commission is setting up a committee to work on an update of the Plan of Conservation & Development, including an affordable housing component and changes to the sanitary sewer line.
- Windham Homes age restricted housing is still moving forward. It's gathering a great deal of interest from the NY area and the Gold Coast.
- The latest plans for the Route 67/42 connector road just came in today.
- The Depot Street bridge rehabilitation is temporarily on hold due to inclement weather.

7. Other

Harold Cosgrove mentioned the SmartLiving Center, an energy conservation showplace in Orange as a place to visit and learn about energy-saving ideas.

Sam Gold distributed flyers for the Electronics Recycling event in Watertown on April 10 at the CRRA transfer station. There will also be a Household Hazardous Waste collection on April 24 in Watertown at John Trumbull School.

Herman Schuler mentioned that Oxford is considering incorporating solar power into the plans for the roof replacement at Great Oaks Middle School. Mr. Schuler mentioned that he had heard of efforts in the legislature to create an enterprise zone around Bradley International Airport that would allow tax incentives for business. He added that an enterprise zone around Waterbury-Oxford Airport would be very beneficial.

Virginia Mason announced the regional housing seminar has been scheduled for March 11 at the Middlebury Fire House. Chuck Andres from the CT Bar Association will be presenting. There is also a housing seminar scheduled for March 25 at Middlebury Library. David Fink, Tim Hollister, and Hiram Peck will be presenting on affordable and incentive housing.

8. Adjournment — On a motion by Joseph McEvoy, seconded by Ken Long, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Joe Perrelli
Regional Planner

for

Ken Long
RPC Secretary

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