

## MINUTES

**Regional Planning Commission**  
**of the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley**  
Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley  
COGCNV Office Conference Room  
60 North Main Street - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
(Wachovia Bank Building - North Lobby)  
Waterbury, CT  
Tuesday, March 1, 2005, 7:00 P.M.

**Attendance:** Richard Minnick, Beacon Falls; Maria Hill, Ellen Samoska, Bethlehem; Gil Graveline, Prospect; Robert Flanagan, Thomaston; James Sequin, Waterbury; Linda Fercodini, Wolcott. **Other Attendees:** Ed Jurzynski, Beacon Falls; Randy James, Waterbury Republican American. **Staff:** Peter Dorpalen, Executive Director; Michael Flood, Regional Planner; Samuel Gold, Regional Planner

### 1. Roll Call, Introductions

Robert Flanagan, called the meeting to order at 7:12 P.M. and participants introduced themselves. Ellen Samoska introduced herself as the new representative from Bethlehem.

### 1. Administrative Items

- a. *Approval of November 9, 2004 Minutes* — On a motion by Richard Minnick, seconded by Maria Hill, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the November 9, 2004 meeting.

- b. *Correspondence*

December 10, 2004	Letter from Heather Lee, Secretary/Planning Assistant, notifying COGCNV that she is resigning effective January 7, 2005. (Heather is taking a position with Aetna as an underwriter.)
December 20, 2004	Letter to King's Mark RC&D notifying them of Robert Flanagan's appointment as the CNVR representative to King's Mark
January 3, 2005	Letter from NEMO transmitting a report describing its programs in Connecticut (including the work of COGCNV on regional impervious analysis).
January 6, 2005	Letter from Thangu Narasimhan stating that she is resigning as a GIS planning assistant as of January 14.
January 10, 2005	Letter from the State Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security on the FY2005 Homeland Security grant program noting a 47% funding drop from the previous fiscal year.
January 10, 2005	Letter to Selma Russo of Waterbury confirming her hiring as a secretary with COGCNV.
February 3, 2005	Letter to the Bethlehem Conservation Commission in support of the commission's National Recreational Trails application for trail construction and improvements at the Swendsen Farm Preserve.

February 4, 2005	Letter to Congresswoman Nancy Johnson in support of Waterbury's funding request for the widening of Chase Ave and Homer St (a regional STP-Urban highway project).
February 5, 2005	Letter from Thomaston Planning and Zoning Commission thanking Virginia Mason and Sam Gold for their presentation for the Thomaston Plan of Conservation and Development.
February 10, 2005	Letter from AICP to Sam Gold congratulating him as a member of a student group at the Univ of Buffalo receiving a 2005 AICP Student Project Award for their Community Food System Plan for the Buffalo West Side.
February 15, 2005	Letter to Ellen Samoska of Bethlehem, welcoming her to the Regional Planning Commission.
February 15, 2005	Letter to Jeffery Cormier of West Hartford confirming his hiring as a GIS Planning Assistant with COGCNV.
February 24, 2005	Letter to Transportation Committee of the State Legislature in support of HB 6319, An Act Concerning a Study of Route 8, with suggestions on the study's scope.
February 15, 2005	Letter to PPS Associates with comments on the draft documents for the Waterbury Plan of Conservation and Development.

## **1. Environmental Planning - Stormwater outfall monitoring**

Peter Dorpalen discussed the stormwater outfall monitoring project that COGCNV has been involved in. EPA is requiring the mapping of stormwater outflows over a certain size in urbanized areas. This includes all or portions of all towns in the region but Bethlehem. COGCNV has applied for a grant to subsidize the cost of a GPS (Global Positioning System) package to be used by the towns for the mapping of the outflows. This package includes a GPS receiver, a iPaq pocket pc on which ArcPad GIS (Geographic Information System) software will collect the exact points of exact outflow. COGCNV will be providing training to the towns on how to use the GPS package to map at the end of March. Once the outflows are mapped, we will use the data that was collected to create maps for the towns.

## **2. Transportation Planning**

- a. *Bus Stop Analysis* — Sam Gold reported that the data input from the Bus Driver Survey is progressing. However, the amount of labor required to input the information into GIS was underestimated and it is taking longer than originally expected. Once this is completed the creation of a Bus Stop Sign Placement Plan will be able to proceed.
- b. *Congested Intersection Analysis* — Mike Flood reported that September through December that COGCNV hired two UConn-Waterbury students to help collect turn movement counts at 11 congested and hazardous intersections within the region. The data collected is run through a program to analyze the level of service of the intersection. Mike will be working on signal optimizing plans to help improve the safety and flow of traffic through these intersections. His analysis and recommendations will be submitted to ConnDOT.
- c. *Funding Priority Transportation Projects - State Proposals* — Peter Dorpalen reported that the Transportation Strategy Board has developed a plan for transportation in Connecticut. The primary issue with this plan is how to fund transportation projects in

this state. Federal legislation does not look good for future transportation funding. Suggested funding options would be an increased gas tax and tolls on expressways using EZPass. EZPass technology would alleviate the congestion and hazards traditionally associated with toll booths. Gov. Rell came out in support of a 1 cent increase in the gas tax to help fund rail and buses in Connecticut.

- d. *STP-Urban Highway Project Priority Update* - Mike Flood reported that snow has melted and road conditions have improved and COGCNV will resume collecting traffic data for proposed STPU projects. This data will be evaluated and used to rank projects and establish updated regional priorities.
- e. *Naugatuck River Greenway* - Sam Gold reported that he has submitted earmark request to Congresswomen Nancy Johnson and Rosa DeLauro's offices for funding for a Naugatuck River Greenway design study. This study would identify an alignment for a future greenway trail and donations of land and easements. The earmark request is for \$100,000 and the money would be used to hire an engineering / planning firm experienced in greenway trails design. On a motion by Jim Sequin, seconded by Richard Minnick, it was unanimously

VOTED: To endorse the COGCNV's earmark requests for \$100,000 for a Naugatuck River Greenway Design Study.

### **3. Points of Interest / Local Activities**

Richard Minnick reported that in Beacon Falls Ed Jurzynski has continued to identify open spaces and undeveloped parcels and has been mapping them with COGCNV assistance. Land has been acquired by the town that could be used for trails going to the Naugatuck River. Richard reported that COGCNV has been given a vote in the regional brownfield pilot program being run by the Valley COG. He also notified the RPC that there is a bill in the General Assembly to consolidate inland wetlands, planning, and zoning commissions. Richard mentioned that it may be difficult for commissioners serving on a combined commission to be fair to both the applicant and the town, since many times planning and zoning can be opposed to one another. Instead, good regional planning should be fostered by the state.

Gil Graveline reported that in Prospect, there is proposal for a large development 400-500 units on the Waterbury-Cheshire line near Scott Road. Waterlines and a sewer need to be extended to the site. There will be a vote on a new grammar school on Rte. 68 in Prospect. A waterline will be extended down Straitsville Rd towards the Bethany line. This project is funded by a grant. Gil reported that Prospect collects subdivision fees for open spaces.

Maria Hill reported that in Bethlehem the conservation commission is sending out a flier looking for donations for open space acquisition. The other issue is about the town's first controversial sidewalk. The sidewalk was approved, but there was some confusion and calls for a re-vote.

Linda Fercodini reported that in Wolcott the age-restricted housing project is still in the courts and therefore no progress has been made on that. The waterline has been run through the Clinton Hill area, and the town now needs to do assessments on the properties. Inland wetlands plans to revise its rules and regulations. The Wolcott Chamber and the town's industrial - commercial commission is looking to create a new brochure to promote Wolcott.

Jim Sequin reported that Waterbury has seen a flurry of text amendments to the zoning code recently. One was passed that reduces the number of required parking spaces.

Another one that is pending concerns a multifamily cluster development use. This amendment would allow many more units to be developed on the site, while clustering it to create more of a neighborhood type environment. The zoning commission has put forth its own proposal for active adult housing. Jim said that an important element of the amendment is making sure that such intensive development is congruent to the existing infrastructure. Another text amendment would allow for a recycling center within the city, which is currently not a permitted use. Finally, a previously withdrawn paintball proposal has been resubmitted with some revisions. Gil Graveline reported that in Prospect there has not been any problems or complaints from this paintball business. However, there is forested area between the paintball field and neighboring uses which provides a buffer. Jim noted that such a buffer cannot be assumed to be present in Waterbury.

Robert Flanagan thanked COGCNV staff Virginia Mason and Sam Gold for their assistance with the town of Thomaston's revision of the plan of conservation and development. He reported that High Ridge estate, a 35-lot subdivision, that was approved a few years ago, is now seeking an additional six more lots to be created on wetlands. Robert also reported that the First Selectman has asked for a zero percent increase for the next year's budget. With a 15% increase in healthcare costs, however, this doesn't seem possible. All town union contracts expire June 30<sup>th</sup>. Finally, Robert reported that Middlebury recently spent \$177,000 to defend a decision made by the conservation commission. In the town of Thomaston, there are at least a half dozen cases pending right now with applicants unhappy, fighting, or ignoring decisions. There should be a better way to streamline the process to help save the possible expense for the towns to defend its decisions.

#### 4. Other

- a. *Upcoming Seminars* - Peter Dorpalen reported that on March 31<sup>st</sup> there will be a seminar at the Middlebury Public Library on the new Connecticut stormwater handling manual. There will be two sessions, one in the afternoon for town staff and another in the evening for commission members. On April 28<sup>th</sup>, there will be a planning seminar on regulating retail spaces from the developer's viewpoint. This will be at 7pm at St. Mary's Conference Center. On Saturday, the CT Bar Association is sponsoring a seminar on land use in Middletown. Sam Gold noted that events of regional significance can be put up on the COGCNV web calendar by e-mailing him at [sgold@cogcnv.org](mailto:sgold@cogcnv.org).
- b. *Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Recycling Events* - Mike Flood reported that he has met with the town recycling coordinators, and the first two events have been set. The first event will be June 11<sup>th</sup>, in Watertown at the Trumbull School, and the second will be on July 30<sup>th</sup> in Woodbury at Nonnewaug High School. The final event will be in Beacon Falls in the Fall, a date has not been set. An electronics recycling event has not been set by CRRA for this region for this year, but Mike said that he is going to try for one this Fall.
- c. *Personnel Policies* - Peter Dorpalen reported that he has been revising the personnel policies since last summer to improve their readability and usability. An important topic that needs updating is electronic communication guidelines such as forbidding instant messaging, limiting cell phone use, and the proper use of the internet.
- d. *Emergency Planning Status* - Peter said that this item was for Virginia who is not present at the meeting.
- e. *Longevity Awards* - There are now five RPC members that have served for over 12 years.

Peter reported that he submitted their names for recognition by the CT Federation of Planning and Zoning Agencies

**7. Adjournment**

At 8:25, on a motion by James Sequin, seconded by Gil Graveline, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Samuel Gold, Regional Planner

for

James Sequin  
RPC Secretary