

DRAFT MINUTES OF
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

Draft May 19, 2016

ATTENDANCE

| RPC Attendees: | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Lansford Perry - Canton | Robert Kulikowski - Simsbury |
| Lawrence Niland | David Brassard – East Granby |
| Sandra Bobowski - Hartford | Jennifer Bartis-Earley - Plainville |
| Jay Fraprie | Susan Westa - Mansfield |
| Lamont Aheart - Vernon | Staff Attendees: |
| Stanley Sobieski - Newington | Mary Ellen Kowalewski |
| Ted Cabata - Southington | Emily Hultquist |
| Nancy Mayeda-Brescia – Rocky Hill | |
| Brendan Malone - Suffield | |
| Ed Marek - Coventry | |
| Jay Stoppelman - Manchester | |

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Adoption of Minutes, March 17, 2016

Stanley Sobieski made a motion seconded by Lamont Aheart to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2016 RPC Meeting. The motion passed with two abstentions, Kulikowski and Westa.

Presentation & Q&A: Lessons Learned from CRCOG Participation on the Step it Up! Walkability Action Institute

Emily Hultquist, Principal Planner and Policy Analyst gave a presentation on lessons learned from CRCOG participation in the Step it Up! Walkability Action Institute.

A CRCOG-led team was selected by the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors to participate in this unique training opportunity. The Walkability Action Institute provided an opportunity for the regional team to explore best practices to increase communities' walkability, and to further regional bike and pedestrian planning and implementation. An interdisciplinary team of public health professionals, a CRCOG staff representative, transportation representative and elected official from the Capitol Region attended the Institute which will take place April 26 – 28 in Atlanta, GA. The team was joined by nine other MPO-led teams from across the country.

Activities at the Institute included learning from experts in the field of active transportation planning as well as successful MPO regions, participating in walkability audits with leaders in the field such as Mark Fenton, a nationally acclaimed walkability expert, and developing the basis for a team action plan to encourage more walking and complete streets in our regions. The team members will be working on a mutually-agreed upon work plan of follow-up activities over the next six months.

Ms. Hultquist described some of the key takeaways learned from presentations from experts in the field. One main lesson from an expert named Ian Lockwood is that over time, communities and state DOTs have been planning and engineering for longer, faster trips, usually in and out of a central business district such as downtown Hartford or other regional centers of employment and commercial activity. In order to plan for better pedestrian and active transportation infrastructure, the shorter trip must be valued.

The city of Decatur, Georgia where the Institute took place offered a great example of a community that has learned to value the short trip through policy and practice. The city's parks and recreation department has been re-named the Active Living department and regularly sponsors programs to get residents walking and moving. The City of Atlanta has also invested in pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure which is exemplified in its Atlanta Beltline Project. The Beltline is a multi-use trail which, when finished, will be a 22 mile loop around the city. Currently, businesses and housing have chosen to locate directly on the beltline which is viewed as a transportation corridor, not just a recreational amenity.

Update on Regional Planning Commission Rules of Procedure

Mary Ellen Kowalewski provided an update on the adoption process of the Regional Planning Commission Rules of Procedure. The Rules of Procedure were presented to the CRCOG Policy Board on April 27th. The Board will take a vote on incorporating them into the CRCOG bylaws on May 25th.

Report on Zoning and Subdivision Referrals

Emily Hultquist presented the report on zoning and subdivision referrals. Stanley Sobieski made a motion seconded by Kulikowski to approve the zoning and subdivision referral reports of 5/11/16 and 5/19/16 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

What's New in My Town?

Sandra Bobowski reported that the stadium project in the City of Hartford is delayed, but that the project is a small piece of a larger development that will be a stimulus for other development. The stadium project connects the north end of Hartford to the downtown. Ms. Bobowski stated that Hartford is an 8x10 city, meaning that it is an 8 minute walk East to West of downtown and a 10 minute walk north to south of downtown.

The Town of Suffield's representative Brendan Malone asked about a town changing the percent affordable housing required under 8-30g. Other RPC members recommended discussing with the town attorney. The town is starting an infrastructure expansion project to Bradley International Airport.

The Town of Plainville has recently had hearings on a crematorium which has come in under state statute.

The Town of Simsbury is continuing discussion of an 8-30g application in June.

Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM