

**Regional Planning Commission Meeting
West Hartford Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT
Thursday, November 17, 2016
7pm**

Attendance

Lamont Aheart
Jennifer Bartiss-Earley
Sandra Bobowski, Chair
Christopher Davey
Robert Kulakowski
Brendan Malone
Nancy Mayeda-Brescia
Lansford Perry
Stanley Sobieski
Julian Stoppelman
Susan Westa

Town/Organization

Vernon
Plainville
Hartford
Bolton
Simsbury
Suffield
Rocky Hill
Canton
Newington
Manchester
Mansfield

Staff

Mary Ellen Kowalewski
Lynne Pike DiSanto
Brittany Stephenson

CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG

Guests

Mike Sanders
John Simone

CT DOT
CT Main Street

With a quorum present, Chairperson Sandra Bobowski called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

1. Adoption of Minutes: September 15, 2016

Stanley Sobieski made a motion seconded by Brendan Malone to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2016 RPC meeting. The motion passed with two abstentions (Mayeda-Brescia, Davey).

2. Presentation and Q & A: CTfastrak Bus Rapid Transit System Status Update

Mike Sanders with CT DOT engaged the committee in a presentation on CTfastrak Bus Rapid Transit System Status. CTfastrak first opened in March of 2015 and has experienced great success. He provided an update on the history and development, achievements, future goals, and obstacles that had been faced in completing CTfastrak. He answered questions and addressed comments from the committee. A copy of the presentation will be posted to CRCOG's website.

For more information about CTfastrak, please visit www.ctfastrak.com.

3. Report on Zoning and Subdivision Referrals

Lynne Pike DiSanto presented this item to the committee. She discussed the November 1, 2016 referrals, highlighting proposals from the town of Somers on its zoning regulation revisions and the town of Andover on its Complete Streets Master Plan and Housing Zone Study revisions. No comments were received on the November 1, 2016 memo. She also discussed the November 17, 2016 supplemental report, directing the committee to the handout consisting of proposals from the towns of Berlin, Newington, South Windsor, and Vernon. Christopher Davey asked about the proposed moratorium for the town of Newington. Stanley Sobieski explained that the moratorium was the result of growing concerns with the placement of temporary signs along the Berlin Turnpike, a state highway. The placement of signs has created safety concerns related to distracted driving, and the town of Newington would like to impose a time-limited moratorium on temporary signs until the Commission drafts new regulations.

Lamont Aheart moved to approve the supplemental referrals. Stanley Sobieski seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Regional Planning Commission 2017 Meeting Dates & Schedule

Mary Ellen Kowalewski presented this item to the committee. She discussed the historical scheduling of the RPC meeting dates and indicated that the towns of Berlin, Enfield, and Vernon are usually unable to attend meetings. In an effort to allow for these towns to attend at least some RPC meetings, the 2017 RPC Meeting Schedule will reflect alternating second and third Thursday meeting dates. It had just been brought to staff's attention that the proposed 09/21 meeting date conflicts with the Rosh Hashana holiday. Therefore, Mary Ellen asked the Board to consider a modification to the dates enclosed in the agenda packet. The new 2017 proposed dates are 01/19; 03/09; 05/18; 09/14; and 11/16.

Brendan Malone moved to approve the dates as read aloud. Stanley Sobieski seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Topics of Interest for January Meeting on Land Use Law

Mary Ellen Kowalewski presented this item to the committee. The RPC will have an attorney present at the January 2017 meeting to update the committee on land use law. She asked the committee for comments for additional topics to be covered at that time. The committee would like to hear current state law regarding affordable housing as well as information on the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA).

6. What's New in My Town-A Discussion and Report on Local Planning and Development Activities in the Municipalities of the Capitol Region

Suffield-Brendan Malone updated the committee on a brew pub which will be relocating to Suffield from East Windsor. The business will be located in the industrial part of the town.

Hartford-Sandra Bobowski updated the committee on the financial crisis concerning the city of Hartford. The city continues to seek solutions to avoid filing bankruptcy. She also advised the committee that she was asked to relinquish her seat on the RPC and the November 16, 2016 meeting would be her last serving as the chair. She expressed her gratitude and appreciation for the RPC.

On behalf of the RPC, Mary Ellen Kowalewski thanked Mrs. Bobowski for her many years of service on the Regional Planning Commission.

7. Other Business

With no further discussion items, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.