

**Capitol Region Council of Governments
Regional Planning Commission Virtual Meeting
Thursday, March 18, 2021, 7:00 pm**

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Town/Organization</u>
Jennifer Bartiss-Earley	Plainville
Thomas Armstrong	Avon
Gary Bazzano	Hartford
David Blume	Simsbury
David Brassard	East Granby
Randal Davis	Hartford
Michael Garbulis	Farmington
Brendan Malone	Suffield
Tom Manning	Bolton
Ed Marek	Coventry
Bruce Mayer	Tolland
Lansford Perry	Canton
Bill Rice	Simsbury
Stanley Sobieski	Newington
<u>Staff</u>	
Mike Cipriano	CRCOG
Chris Henchey	CRCOG
Caitlin Palmer	CRCOG
Lynne Pike DiSanto	CRCOG
Laura Quintiliani	CRCOG
<u>Guests</u>	
Danielle Arigoni	AARP CT
Anna Doroghazi	AARP CT

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Jennifer Bartiss-Earley called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Lynne Pike DiSanto, Principal Planner and Policy Analyst at the Capitol Region Council of Governments, introduced new staff members Laura Quintiliani, Administrative Assistant, and Chris Henchey, Transportation Planner.

2. Adoption of Minutes: November 19, 2020 ([attachment](#))

Stanley Sobieski moved to approve the minutes of November 19, 2020 as presented. Brendan Malone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

3. AARP - Improving Accessibility & Livability of Our Communities

Anna Doroghazi, Advocacy Director, and Danielle Arigoni, Director of Livable Communities, of AARP CT provided an overview of what AARP does, for whom, and where. They described the importance of accessible and livable housing and communities, particularly for adults 65 and over. They also spoke to the effect this problem has on the physical and mental well being of individuals struggling with finding or maintaining housing in accessible and livable communities. Presented to the commission were several characteristics that make a community livable and how they can be implemented over time as well as two grant programs offered by AARP to communities. To view the entire presentation, [please click here](#).

4. Report on Zoning and Subdivision Referrals ([attachment](#))

Caitlin Palmer reviewed recent zoning and subdivision referrals with the RPC.

David Blume made a motion to approve the referrals as presented. Lansford Perry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

Plainville – Jennifer Bartiss-Earley stated that a large, new development would be going up next to the Plainville Town Hall. Plainville hopes that this new development will be integrative for businesses, housing, and walking trails.

Suffield – The town has been working to continue creating a more diverse housing stock. A developer has purchased an abandoned property that was formerly used as a church, then a culinary institute and plans are to renovate the property into luxury apartments. The applicant is agreeable to adding an affordable component.

Coventry – A new Dollar General will be opening shortly.

Simsbury – The Simsbury Planning Commission is currently developing an affordable housing plan and exploring options to create more diverse housing opportunities.

Tolland – A developer recently provided a large, multi-family housing development presentation to the town. This project will keep the town quite busy for several months.

Newington – Newington has just approved a short stay hotel and just approved small mini shopping mall near the Center Road area.

Canton – Several issues going on in town right now.

6. Other Business

Several members asked for a presentation at the June 17, 2021 meeting on new legislation affecting housing and land use.

With no further business, Brendan Malone made a motion to adjourn at 8:18 pm. David Blume seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.