

## NOTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 27, 2017 MEETING OF THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

**Members Present:** Adelman (Bozrah); Kunkemoeller (City of Groton); Pritchard (Town of Groton); Cherry (Ledyard); Giroux (Lisbon); Boissevain (North Stonington); Sharron (Norwich).  
**SCCOG Staff:** Guggenheim, Kennedy, Molden

1. Call to Order: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was not present. Members introduced themselves.
3. Review of Meeting Notes of November 7th: No quorum was present for this meeting, and so the minutes of the November meeting could not be approved.
4. Presentation on the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development. Ms. Kennedy presented information on the Draft RPOCD, including the feedback from the four public information meetings held in February. She noted that there was good turn out and that attendees made good suggestions for improving the plan, such as including more information on renewable energy and energy reliability. It is not expected that significant changes will be made to the RPOCD ahead of the April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 public hearing. Mr. Cherry mentioned that Ledyard was somewhat surprised by the demographic information presented in the RPOCD, especially as to the decline of the school age population, and the lack of certain types of housing.

Ms. Kennedy shared worksheets with the group, one describing the goals and strategies of the plan, and the other highlighting the strategies for municipal implementation in particular. Ms. Boissevain noted that one of the municipal strategies, incentive housing zones, is something that North Stonington will be meeting soon to discuss.

As for implementation of the RPOCD, Ms. Kennedy said that the COG is taking a long view, as the plan is in place for the next ten years. The COG will continue to pursue funding and other opportunities to assist with implementation, and towns should pursue those strategies that they believe are most relevant to them. While all strategies are not applicable to all towns, Ms. Kennedy noted that the intent was to keep actions and strategies as relevant and meaningful as possible. Members discussed how to be involved in implementation on an ongoing basis, perhaps by focusing on reviewing plan implementation once annually or including it as a standing agenda item.

Update of Various SCCOG Matters: Ms. Kennedy reviewed information pertaining to a recent grant from the Department of Agriculture to assist SCCOG towns with studying agricultural regulations, zoning, and policy. Mr. Cherry suggested that the study team include representatives from rural, suburban, and urban towns in order to have the best possible outcome.

SCCOG is also working on a Critical Infrastructure project that will examine the risk posed to fire and police stations from flooding. Ms. Boissevain noted that there is a group based in Mystic/Stonington that is concerned with flooding and related insurance issues.

5. Set Date for Next Meeting: April 24, 2017.
6. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.