



SECHA Board of Directors Meeting
February 3, 2017
Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments
5 Connecticut Ave, Norwich, CT

Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Norton Wheeler (President), Bob Fusari, Les King, Terri O'Rourke, Ginny Sampietro, Deb Monahan, Jim Butler, Amanda Kennedy

1. Call to Order

Norton Wheeler called the meeting to order at 8:32 am.

2. Approval of December 9, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Members approved the December 9, 2016 meeting minutes (motion made by Jim Butler, approved by Deb Monahan, all voted in favor).

3. Financial Report

Jim Butler presented the treasurer's report for the period 10/1/16-12/13/16.

4. HUD Funding/Six-month workplan

Amanda Kennedy reported that SECHA has received notice from HUD that the remaining \$14,000 available to SECHA from the HUD grant must be requested prior to September, 15, 2017. Amanda and Jim will request reimbursement from the HUD grant for FY 2017 expenditures.

Members discussed potential work items for 2017. Members recommended that SECHA pursue the following:

- May 2017 bus tour: Sites may include Post & Main (Old Saybrook), Ponemah Mills (Norwich), 400 units in Griswold, and Spruce Meadows (Stonington). Terri O'Rourke will approach Liberty Bank about sponsorship. Amanda will get Terri a list of costs for the last bus tour.
- Housing Needs & Zoning Assessment w/Forum: A forum would be planned for the fall to highlight the release of an updated report on housing needs and zoning issues. Amanda and Jim will review potential methodologies to determine whether an outside consultant

would be needed to complete this work. Jim will reach out to his contact at Electric Boat to discuss housing issues related to their hiring.

- Website: A page for SECHA will be built on the seccog.org site.

5. Legislative Report

Amanda reported that there are several bills of potential interest to SECHA, including threats to the Affordable Housing Land Use Appeals Law (8-30g). Members discussed a bill (HB-5146) that would increase the threshold for DEEP review of community water systems to facilitate larger developments in areas that lack public water & sewer. Currently, developers avoid projects with 33 bedrooms or more because they have to go through DEEP for review. Bob Fusari is working on promoting this bill and other modifications to state requirements, and may approach SECHA for a letter of support.

6. Status of Recruitment

At the December meeting, membership was approved for the following, contingent on their acceptance: Sen. Paul Formica, Susy Hurlbert, Roxanne Duperry, Pam Days-Luketich, Tony Silvestri. Norton and Amanda still need to send out the invitation letters.

7. Next Meeting Date

The meeting previously scheduled for Friday, April 3 was moved to Friday, April 28 to avoid a conflict.

8. New Business

No new business.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.