



SECHA Board of Directors Meeting
October 31, 2017
Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments
5 Connecticut Ave, Norwich, CT

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Norton Wheeler (President), Les King, Deb Monahan, John Bolduc, Susy Hurlbert, Mark Oefinger, Bob Fusari, Virginia Sampietro, Pam Days-Luketich, Jim Butler, Amanda Kennedy, Sam Alexander

1. Call to Order

Norton Wheeler called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

2. Welcome New Members

No new members were present.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Members approved the June 2, 2017 meeting minutes (all in favor). Minutes for October and April 2017 need to be approved at the next meeting in December.

4. Approval of Financial Report/Fundraising.

Two financial reports were presented, one closing out Fiscal Year 2017 and one showing the first few months of Fiscal Year 2018. Since the last financial report presented in April, \$14,000 was spent, primarily in staff time preparing the housing needs assessment, and there was \$16,000 in revenues, the largest contribution being drawdown of the remaining \$14,000 in HUD NI Grant funds. Bank balance as of September 30 was \$32,713.06.

Amanda presented an opportunity to submit a proposal to Eastern Connecticut Community Foundation for funding to develop locally-specific housing profiles for each community in the SE CT region. If the \$10,000 grant request were awarded, a small amount of additional funding would be needed to support the project. Pam suggested that bank foundations might be supportive. Members discussed the potential to bring the 2017 report and municipally-specific materials to local groups acting as ambassadors for SECHA's mission and educational materials. Amanda will revise the proposal to include more member involvement in outreach and will submit the letter of intent by the November 1st deadline.

5. June 2017 Housing Tour

The June 28th housing tour brought more than 30 participants to Thread Mill and Spruce Meadows Apartments in Stonington. The lunch program was well received. The Westerly Sun covered the event.

6. Fall 2017 Housing Needs Report

Amanda and Sam presented an update on the housing needs assessment findings. The new population projections released by the Connecticut State Data Center result in lower housing needs through 2030 than previously estimated. SCCOG staff are completing the zoning analysis and report.

Members discussed how to best present the report to various audiences. Options discussed includes: 1) holding a stand-alone event; 2) presenting the material at other organization's events, such as a Chamber of Commerce function; and 3) presenting to small groups, including planning and zoning commissions. Members expressed a desire and willingness to present the material to various groups over the coming year. Mark Oefinger stated that there could be opportunities to present at larger events like seCTer's annual board meeting. Mark offered to come up with a list of potential venues to pursue.

Members decided to use the upcoming December meeting as a working lunch meeting to be briefed on the outreach presentation for the report.

7. Status of Recruitment

Three vacancies exist. Members discussed inviting Susan Adams from EB to join (Jim Butler to call). Members also discussed inviting Mike Sheehan from Chelsea Groton Bank (Pam Days-Luketich to call).

8. Next Meeting Date

Members selected a new standing date for meetings of the 2nd Friday of every month at 8:30 am, with the next meeting being a special noon-2 pm annual meeting on Friday, December 8th. (Note: after the meeting, it was discovered that two members have conflicts with second Friday mornings).

9. New Business

No new business.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 am.