

**MINUTES FROM THE JULY 23, 2018 MEETING
OF THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

Members Present: Adelman (Bozrah); Berardi (North Stonington); Bittman (Sprague); Cherry (Lebanon); Giroux (Lisbon); Lindberg (Stonington Borough); Malozzi (Lebanon); Pritchard (Town of Groton); Sharron (Norwich); Velles (Sprague)

Others Present: Amanda Kennedy (SCCOG staff); Justin LaFountain (SCCOG Staff)

1. Call to Order:

Chairman Cherry called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call:

A quorum was present. Members introduced themselves.

3. Election of Officers:

Chairman Cherry noted that as a quorum had not been present in several years, elections could not take place until this meeting.

Chairman Cherry nominated Vice Chairman Giroux to be Chairman. Seconded by Sharron. Approved unanimously.

Pritchard nominated Cherry for Vice Chairman. Seconded by Chairman Giroux. Approved unanimously.

Vice Chairman Cherry nominated Sharron for Secretary. Seconded by Chairman Giroux. Approved unanimously.

4. Review Minutes of Previous Meetings:

Vice Chairman Cherry made a motion to approve the RPC minutes of November, 2016 by acclamation. Approved unanimously.

5. Discussion of Resources and Strategies to Support Preservation of Historic Resources

Justin LaFountain, SCCOG Planner II, made a presentation to the Commission regarding historic resource preservation. This presentation was a recap of a presentation given by Mary Dunne of the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office to local planners from the SCCOG region. Topics discussed in LaFountain's presentation included the benefits of historic preservation, the possible avenues to implement historic preservation in a community, and the financial incentives of preservation through grants and tax credits.

The Commission discussed their thoughts on historic preservation, particularly commenting on the unique challenges posed by the creation and implementation of Village Districts. It was noted that

Village Districts are meant to preserve the character of a certain area, not to create the character. It was also noted that historic districts can be as large or as small as a community desires to ensure it achieves its purpose. Chairman Giroux suggested that Commissioners bring this information, particularly the grant and tax incentive opportunities, to their local Planning Commissions.

6. Schedule of Future Meetings

LaFountain mentioned that the next meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2018 and asked for thoughts on times for meetings. The Commission agreed that 7:00 pm was likely the best time for all members. The Commission also discussed possible topics for future meetings, including projects of regional impact such as the State Hospital property in Norwich and Preston, regional transportation including bikeway and trail development, sewer and water infrastructure potential for new developments, and updates on court cases and legislation.

7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Justin LaFountain, CZEO

Planner II, SCCOG