



SECHA Board of Directors Meeting
March 10, 2023
8:30 AM

HYBRID – In person at SCCOG, 5 Connecticut Ave., Norwich, CT 06360
and by Zoom Conference

Minutes

Attendees: Norton Wheeler, Danielle Chesebrough, Bob Fusari, Mark Oefinger, Fredy Allyn III, Nicole Haggerty, Amanda Kennedy, Julie Savin, Sandra Allyn-Gauthier, Deborah Monahan

1. Call to Order

Mr. Wheeler called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM.

2. Introductions

Norton Wheeler, Mystic River Building Company; Danielle Chesebrough, Stonington First Selectman; Bob Fusari, retired developer; Mark Oefinger, retired Groton Town Manager; Fred Allyn III, Mayor of Ledyard; Nicole Haggerty, planner at SCCOG; Amanda Kennedy, Executive Director at SCCOG; Julie Savin, President and CEO of ECHO; Sandra Allyn-Gauthier, Preston First Selectman; Deborah Monahan, TVCCA

3. Approval of Minutes

a. Approve November 4, 2022 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: To approve the November 4, 2022 Meeting Minutes (Fusari, Oefinger). So voted unanimously.

b. Approve February 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: To approve the February 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes (Oefinger, Fusari). So voted unanimously.

4. Financial Report

Ms. Kennedy presented the financial report. Additional money in the amount of \$804 was spent in the month of February for grant reporting and the housing lookbook. The current balance is \$7,000. Ms. Haggerty discussed the grant reporting that was completed. Ms.

Kennedy stated that post-grant reports need to be completed before asking for new funds.

MOTION: To approve the financials as reported (Oefinger, Allyn). So voted unanimously.

5. Membership Committee

Mr. Oefinger reported on behalf of the Membership Committee. The committee has met a few times and has a slate of new members ready for the Annual Meeting in April. Ms.

Kennedy clarified that even though the bylaws state that there is an Annual Meeting in April.

SECHA usually does not meet due when the Board meets. The next meeting will be in May.

6. Center for Housing Opportunity Update

Ms. Kennedy provided an update on the newly established Center for Housing Opportunity.

Upcoming on March 16 is an event at Connecticut College at 1:00 PM that SECHA can attend. The Board discussed their strategy for coordinating with the Center moving forward.

7. Workplan Activities

Ms. Haggerty provided an update on the lookbook. She is compiling resources to include in the document, and will begin reaching out to different groups and stakeholders for testimonials. In April/May she hopes to take pictures of different types of affordable housing units in the region. Ms. Kennedy suggested calling a portfolio over calling it a lookbook or resource guide. Mr. Fusari asked who the audience is. Ms. Kennedy stated that there are multiple audiences – commissions, and a broader public audience.

Ms. Haggerty stated that there is also an option for a digital companion to the document – ArcGIS has a story map function that has been successful with other planning endeavors.

Ms. Kennedy stated that the idea of this workplan is to help with implementation of affordable housing plans. The document will be a tool to commissioners and will be a tool to reach back out to commissions.

Mr. Allyn brought up the new required training for Land Use Commissioners. Ms. Kennedy said it could be used as a tool to train commissioners, since there is a mandatory 1 hour of affordable housing training. She noted that the curriculum would need to be developed before holding any training. Ms. Chesebrough stated that Stonington successfully established a housing opportunity commission.

The board discussed that there are different types of units, and suggested framing it as an affordable housing typology. Including different housing types, rehabbed units, accessory dwelling units, etc.

8. New Business

None

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Friday, May 12, 2023 at 8:30 AM in person at SCCOG.

10. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn (Kennedy, Fusari). Meeting adjourned at 9:27 AM.