



SECHA Board of Directors Meeting
July 14, 2023
8:30 AM

In person at SCCOG, 5 Connecticut Ave., Norwich, CT 06360

Minutes

Attendees: Norton Wheeler, Danielle Chesebrough, Bob Fusari, Mark Oefinger, Nicole Haggerty, Amanda Kennedy, Julie Savin, Sandra Allyn-Gauthier, Deborah Monahan, David Stanland, Paula Turley, Beth Sabilia

1. Call to Order

Mr. Wheeler called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM.

2. Introductions: New members Danielle Chesebrough, Sandra Allyn-Gauthier, and Paula Turley introduced themselves. Beth Sabilia, Director of Center for Housing Equity and Opportunity in Eastern Connecticut, attended as a guest and introduced herself.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. Approve May 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: To approve the May 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes (Oefinger, Savin). So voted unanimously.

4. Financial Report

Ms. Kennedy presented the financial report. Additional money in the amount of \$614.12 was spent in the months of May and June for grant reporting and workplan activities. The current balance is \$6,925.64. Ms. Kennedy stated that post-grant reports need to be completed before asking for new funds.

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

5. Updates

a. Center for Housing Equity and Opportunity in Eastern Connecticut: Beth Sabilia,

Director provided an update on the first few months of the CHEO. Ms. Sabilia stated

that there are three working groups: Narrative Change/Casemaking, Production/Capacity, and Preservation/Protection. CHEO is also continuing to build a coalition in the region of various groups of stakeholders. One of the Center's future goals is to encourage people to show up to PZC meetings to advocate for and support new housing development. Ms. Sabilia said she can continue to provide updates to SECHA.

- b. Housing Portfolio Progress: The housing portfolio is on hold for now since Ms. Haggerty is currently working as the Town Planner for 3 towns. The priority has shifted away from the housing portfolio and to land use commissioner training.
- c. Land Use Commissioner Training: As a part of the new state-mandated training for Land Use Commissioners, one hour of training must be in affordable and fair housing. The board will work with SCCOG to develop training that will satisfy the requirement for Commissioners. The training could be held in October/November. Ms. Savin, Mr. Wheeler, and Ms. Turley volunteered to speak at the training session.

6. New Business

Mr. Fusari requested that SECHA prepare and send a letter to the Department of Public Health's Code Advisory Committee. The letter would support septic system regulatory reforms to encourage multi-family development. Ms. Haggerty stated she would write the letter and have Mr. Norton sign it.

7. Next Meeting

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

8. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn (Monahan, Savin). Meeting adjourned at 9:55 AM.