

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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September 3, 2024 Executive Committee

Minutes

PRESENT:

In person: Tom DeVivo. Via Zoom: John Salomone, Bob Carlson, Cheryl Blanchard, Danielle Chesbrough, Rob Brule. Staff: Amanda Kennedy, Dan Robinson.

1. Call to Order: Chairman Brule called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was present.
3. Capital Improvements:
 - i) Ms. Kennedy gave an overview of the SCCOG office improvements
 - (1) New carpeting, new paint, new furniture, new windows and doors installed
 - (2) Costs within allocated FY25 budget, but roof repairs may have to be put off until next year
 - ii) Mr. DeVivo expressed that perhaps repairs could be done in the meantime. Ms. Kennedy explained that she will look into said temporary fixes.
4. Program Updates:
 - A) Ms. Kennedy presented a status report on the Regional Open Space Plan, planned for adoption at September SCCOG meeting. A few comments were received on municipal annexes and final edit is still pending.
 - i) Ms. Kennedy inquired if the final ROSP should be sent directly to the board for approval in September.
 - ii) Chairman Brule suggested pushing approval to October to allow the Executive Committee to review the final.
 - B) Ms. Kennedy informed everyone of the new hires at SCCOG that were made this past August.

Member Municipalities: Bozrah * Colchester * East Lyme * Franklin * Griswold * Borough of Jewett City * City of Groton * Town of Groton * Lebanon * Ledyard * Lisbon * Montville * New London * North Stonington * Norwich * Preston * Salem * Sprague * Stonington * Stonington Borough * Waterford * Windham

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- i) Dan Robinson – Planner I
- ii) Lana Melonakos-Harrison – Planner II
- iii) Debra Pierce – Planner III
- iv) Paul Currie – Temporary Building Inspector

(1) Ms. Kennedy noted that pending Mr. Currie’s passing of the Building Inspector’s exam, he will be employed by Town of Montville in early 2025.

- v) Chairman Brule welcomed the new hires.

5. Personal Policy Amendments:

A) Ms. Kennedy informed everyone that these amendments were not ready yet and pushed said discussion on them to next month.

6. 2024 Defense Community Champion Nomination

A) Ms. Kennedy stated that she had received no nominations, despite expecting at least one from New London. Ms. Kennedy asked if it would be better to follow again on the nomination process with the municipalities or to wait until next year to nominate someone. Mr. Brule suggested one more follow-up and a special executive committee session should more than one nomination be received.

7. Regional Open Space Plan:

A) Ms. Kennedy expressed that this topic had already been covered under Program Updates.

8. Speaker Requests:

A) Ms. Kennedy mentioned several speakers interested in addressing the SCCOG: Ross Gionfriddo, (government liaison at General Dynamics Electric Boat, and David Kooris, new ED for the CT Municipal Redevelopment Authority. Chairman Brule thought Mr. Gionfriddo would be a great asset to the region and that it would be a great idea for him to get in contact with Ms. Kennedy and to meet the CEOs and the COG in general.

- i) Ms. Kennedy stated she would try to schedule Mr. Gionfriddo for September and put David Kooris on the list for a future meeting. David Aldridge (SCRRA) is confirmed for October.

9. Additional Comments:

A) Chairman Brule expressed interest in setting up a photo opportunity for the SCCOG CEOs and to take one on an annual basis and that he could arrange for a photographer. He

proposed that the photo be taken this October. He said he would follow up with Ms. Kennedy. Those present at the meeting were in favor of this idea.

10. Next meeting: September 18, 2024

11. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting (Devivo, Carlson). Motion passed unanimously. The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:28 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Kennedy, Executive Director, on behalf of Rob Carlson, Secretary