



Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance Meeting Minutes

Noon; Monday; June 20th, 2011; CCRPA Offices, Suite 304; 225 North Main Street, Bristol, CT

- i. Call to order, introductions; determination of quorum** (representatives from 4 different municipalities) the meeting was called to order at 12:15pm with the following members in attendance, except as noted:

A. Municipality Representatives

Berlin	Jim Mahoney - Econ. Dev – AB	Bill Millerick – Chamber – AB
Bristol	Art Ward – Mayor – AB	Steven Schiller - Ec. Dev.
	Jonathan Rosenthal (Chair) - Ec. Dev.	Plainville Robert E. Lee – Manager
	Mike Nicastro - Chamber (com. org's.)- AB	Mark DeVoe - Ec. Dev.
Burlington	Rich Stocker – Econ. Dev – AB	Plymouth Khara Dodds - Ec. Dev.
	Mike Scheidel – Chamber – AB	Southington Louis Perillo - Ec. Dev.
New Britain	Tim Stewart (V. Chair) – AB	

B. Non-municipal Representatives

Julie Geyer - CWP (Un/underemployed)	Peggy Sokol - Bristol Senior Center (aged/women) –AB
Bruce Lydem (Organized Labor) – AB	Rosita Forte-Dobson - CT Small Business Center (Professionals/women/minorities) – AB
Byron Treado (Finance)	Rick Mullins - CCSU ITBD – AB
Janet Serra - NW CT CVB (tourism/women) – AB	Victor Mitchell - Tunxis CC – AB
John O'Toole - Northeast Utilities (utilities) – AB	Dwight Harris – Agriculture
John Tricarico - CCRPA Paratransit (Disabilities)	CERC – N.A.
Lynn Abrahamson - Bristol/Burlington Public Health District (Health)	

Also present were Kristin Thomas (CCRPA), Francis Pickering (CCRPA), Timothy Malone (CCRPA), Patrick Gallagher, and Ethan Abeles (CCRPA)

II. Approval of May 23rd, 2011, minutes

MOTION: Mark DeVoe; seconded by Lou Perillo; unanimously passed

III. CEDS

A. Finalize vision, goals, objectives, and strategies

Tim Malone read the proposed vision, which is based on the vision from the 2004 CEDS. The group agreed that it accurately represented the vision they wanted to put forth in the current plan.

The floor was opened up for discussion on the goals, objectives, and strategies of the CEDS. Tim suggested that adding a strategy in support of developing or enhancing farmer’s markets in the region would be useful. Dwight Harris agreed, noting that farmers tend to get higher prices at farmer’s markets than through other distribution channels.

Lou Perillo asked about pending legislation regarding farmer’s markets and permitting. He noted that it is difficult for farmers to get permits so that they can

sell their goods at markets in various towns. Mark DeVoe suggested that language be placed in the CEDS supporting farmer's markets and statewide reforms to make it easier for farmers to take advantage of them.

Lou Perillo also asked about strategies related to brownfields. While supportive of the language already in the CEDS, he expressed concern that the real issues were not being tackled, such as liability. Jonathan Rosenthal questioned whether such an issue could really be addressed within this plan, as it is statewide issue. Mark DeVoe concurred but noted that getting permits in general was difficult and that we should try to work towards getting a more streamlined process from DEP. He suggested that we add language supporting "efforts to limit liability on brownfield projects".

MOTION – to accept the vision, goals, objectives, and strategies with addendums regarding brownfields liability and farmer's market support: Mark DeVoe, seconded by Steve Schiller

B. Vote on project rankings

Discussion moved to the project rankings, which had been sent out a few weeks prior. Tim Malone reported two sets of scores for each project, one in which project sponsors were allowed to rank their own projects, and one in which they're scores were excluded. He also stated that in his opinion, the scores should be used only as a guide and that final project selection should be based on other factors as well. Jonathan Rosenthal asked those in attendance about which projects were actually ready to go. Tim added that the group should also consider, for this exercise, which ones were likely to get EDA funding. He noted that other projects should still be kept in the CEDS as other funding sources may be sought in the future (and other funding sources may start looking at projects included in CEDS documents).

The group went down the list and marked each project that was both "ready to go" and in-line with EDA funding priorities. A final list of projects was chosen: Hospital of Central CT Cancer Center; Plymouth Business Park Phase IV; Pinnacle Business Park; Berlin Train Station; Plymouth Industrial Park Infrastructure; and the Strawberry Fields Industrial Park.

Tim Malone also reported that Rick Mullins at ITBD/CCSU was going ahead with the University Center project and that they will be partnering with UConn to broaden its scope.

MOTION – to accept the list of "vital projects": Mark DeVoe, seconded by Khara Dodds.

C. Discuss/approve CEDS draft

It was determined that the previous two motions combined had approved the draft CEDS and that no further action was necessary.

D. Discuss public forum/hearing

Tim Malone asked the members how they wanted to proceed with presenting the draft plan to the public. After some discussion of the difficulty of getting people to come out during the summer, it was determined that the best way to proceed would be to circulate the new draft of the CEDS, allow members to make any final comments, then send a draft to the public. A forum will be held at the end of the 30 day comment period.

IV. Proposed new members

Two new members of the Alliance were proposed. Byron Treado of New England Bank, and resident of Plainville, was nominated as the new finance industry representative, replacing Jack Driscoll. He gave a brief overview of his background, highlighting his work with various community organizations such as the Main Street Foundation, United Way, and the Central Connecticut Revolving Loan Fund.

Dwight Harris, owner of Johnny Cake Mountain Farm in Burlington was nominated as the new agriculture representative. He told the group about his experience as a developer in both Burlington and in Fairfield County. Part of his development in Burlington is also a 30 acre working farm.

MOTION – to accept Byron Treado and Dwight Harris as members of the Alliance: Lou Perillo, seconded by Mark DeVoe

V. Other Matters

vi. **Adjournment was declared at approximately 1:59pm.**