



CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

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Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance Meeting Minutes

Noon; Monday; September 24th, 2012; 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 12:16pm 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 – AB
	Mike Nicastro - Chamber (com. orgs.) – 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	Vacant – 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) – AB	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 – AB
People with disabilities – Vacant	CERC – N.A.
Lynn Abrahamson - Bristol/Burlington Public Health District (Health) - AB	

Also present Garry Brumback (Southington Town Manager), Kristin Thomas (CCRPA), and Timothy Malone (CCRPA)

II. Approval of June 18th, 2012 minutes

12:13 MOTION – Lou Perillo moved to approve the June 18th minutes as presented; seconded by Mark DeVoe

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

III. Update roundtable (12:15)

Tim Malone suggested that each representative give an update on their town's/organization's progress since the last meeting.

Steve Schiller reported that New Britain is moving forward on its EDA-funded Pinnacle Heights project. Two tenants have been signed: the Capitol Region Education Council and Polymer Manufacturing. The latter is expected to bring 75-100 manufacturing jobs to the region.

Jonathan Rosenthal reported that Bristol is nearing completion of a three story addition to its Southeast Industrial Park (EDA funded). The project is waiting on action from ESPN, which is making considerable progress on their expansion project.

Lou Perillo reported that Southington has been doing very well. The town is abandoning a road in ESPN's complex to assist them with an expansion project. The town received a state grant for some infrastructure upgrades. This grant is allowing Yard Metals to expand (100,000 ft²). Lake Compounce amusement park is continuing to expand and a new hotel is being built nearby. This will help the town market itself as recreation destination. Supreme Industries is also moving in, adding 35-60 acres of development.

Mark DeVoe added that ESPN's expansion has been good for Plainville; most apartment vacancies in town are quickly filled by ESPN employees. He also reported on a bit of regional cooperation, noting that Polymer had originally approached him, but when he was unable to find them suitable land in Plainville, he referred them to New Britain. The cooperative cancer treatment center project is also moving forward with inter-municipal agreements on sewer and water service about to be signed. The town's downtown streetscape project is also proceeding as planned.

Khara Dodds reported that Plymouth's streetscape project phase 1 is complete and that funding for phase 2 is being sought. The town is hoping that property owners will be encouraged to invest in improving their properties. The town is also using leftover funds from a previous project to offer a façade improvement loan fund. Two new companies are breaking ground in the EDA-funded Plymouth Industrial Park and construction is beginning on the town's waterwheel project.

Julie Geyer asked if any of the reported expansions were of companies moving into the region, or if they were companies already located here. Jonathan Rosenthal reported that some of the expansions were existing companies, while others were moving from out of the region. ESPN, for example, moved its magazine business from New York to Bristol.

Jonathan Rosenthal noted that Connecticut Light and Power (CL&P), and its parent company Northeast Utilities, are laying off 5 of 8 economic development professionals. This led to considerable discussion of the many programs and services that are provided by CL&P. Jonathan suggested that a letter be sent to CL&P, urging them to continue funding programs such as the Community Builders Institute and the Connecticut Main Street Center.

12:55 MOTION – Steve Schiller moved to send a letter to CL&P urging them to continue funding for the Community Builders Institute and the Connecticut Main Street Center; seconded by Lou Perillo.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

IV. CEDS/EDD Update

Timothy Malone gave an update regarding EDD designation. He reported that he discussed the EDD application with EDA staff and was told that the Philadelphia Regional Office's review should be completed by the end of September. EDA staff told him that they saw no reason the application would not be approved.

This led to a discussion of a meeting held between Tim Malone, Jonathan Rosenthal, and State Representative Brendan Sharkey. The discussion centered around the issue of consolidating regions in the state. Jonathan reported that Representative Sharkey said that consolidation would likely occur in the near future. Tim Malone state that once EDD designation is granted by the EDA, state action will be of little concern for the Alliance. He did state that the issue of consolidation was a larger issue for the Central Connecticut Region.

V. Regional commercial real-estate agent promotional event

Jonathan suggested that the region hold a real-estate agent promotional event. These had been held in the past. He suggested either a golf event or a tour of ESPN. Lou Perillo liked the idea of a tour of ESPN. He said that Southington has held events in the past and they often get negative feedback about golf events. Half the people don't end up playing golf and many people don't want to devote an entire day to the event. They are also costly. It was determined that the event should be between two and three hours and that 40 to 50 people could be accommodated. Jonathan said he would look into ESPN and Tim Malone said he would send an e-mail to the towns to get a headcount of town representatives that will attend.

VI. Reconsideration of CEDS priority projects

Tim Malone mentioned that Plainville had contacted the EDA regarding the cancer center project and was told that any improvements funded by the EDA would need to be owned by the town. That was not the case with this project and it would thus be ineligible for funding. Based on this experience, Tim decided it would be a good idea to add another criteria to the project evaluation sheets mentioning this fact. He distributed an amended list of criteria.

1:23 MOTION – Steve Schiller moved to adopt the modified project scoring criteria and have the Alliance reconsider CEDS projects; seconded by Khara Dodds

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

VII. Other Matters

Jonathan Rosenthal mentioned that Bristol, Plainville, and Plymouth had applied for a grant to study flooding along the Pequabuck River. Tim Malone also mentioned that CCRPA had applied for funding to create a disaster recovery plan for the region.

VIII. Adjournment was declared at approximately 1:34 pm