



*CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY*

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**DRAFT**

**Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance Meeting Minutes**

Noon; Monday; December 17, 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.)		Mark DeVoe - Ec. Dev. – AB
Burlington	Tod Kallenbach – 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
People with disabilities – Vacant	CERC – N.A.
Lynn Abrahamson - Bristol/Burlington Public Health District (Health) - AB	

Also present was Timothy Malone (CCRPA)

**II. Approval of September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012 minutes**

**12:20 MOTION** – Lou Perillo moved to approve the September 24<sup>th</sup> minutes as presented; seconded by Lou Perillo

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**III. Update roundtable (12:21)**

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. He also reported that asbestos remediation may be necessary in the old police headquarters, which is holding up redevelopment. The Cancer Treatment Center project is on track and has broken ground.

Alliance meetings are held quarterly on the third Monday of the month at noon in the CCRPA Offices. Please mark your calendars for the next meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Jonathan Rosenthal reported that Bristol submitted a grant to the EDA on behalf of Bristol, Plainville, and Plymouth to study flooding along the Pequabuck River. They have gotten a positive response so far and expect a final decision soon.

Julie Geyer mentioned that CWP, in cooperation with the Springfield area workforce investment board, has received a large grant for workforce development.

#### **IV. Draft Annual Progress Report/CEDS Update**

Timothy Malone presented the draft Annual Update of the region's CEDS. He went over the projects that have already in progress and listed projects that had been submitted to him for inclusion in the update. Lou Perillo, from Southington, proposed adding a flood mitigation project that will help protect Southington's downtown business district, as well as the forthcoming Greenway Commons project. The Greenway Commons project is receiving a \$1.5 million loan and a \$3 million grant.

Tim asked if there were any other projects that should be added to the CEDS and suggested that the Bristol Chamber of Commerce's incubator project be considered. Mike Nicastro gave an overview of the proposal. The incubator would focus on startups in the information sector, as well as bioscience companies. The chamber would work with the City of Bristol on the proposal and the incubator would be housed in city-owned property.

**1:00pm MOTION** – Steve Schiller moved to add the incubator project to the vital projects list; seconded by Lou Perillo

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Tim suggested that it would be prudent to reevaluate the vital projects list. It was suggested that the Cancer Center project be removed as it did not appear to meet EDA criteria regarding ownership.

**1:05pm MOTION** – Mike Nicastro moved to accept the changes to the vital projects list; seconded by Steve Schiller

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**1:15pm MOTION** – Mike Nicastro moved to approve and adopt the 2012 CEDS Update, pending any updates or changes submitted to Tim Malone by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. Seconded by Lou Perillo

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **V. Business assistance program(s) information/Potential chamber events**

Tim Malone suggested that the steering committee collect and distribute information on business assistance programs to area businesses. He asked what efforts had already been made toward that end. Mike Nicastro reported on the Bristol Chamber's successful Energize CT event that gave local business information on energy efficiency programs and resources. Tim Malone asked if any information regarding internhere.com had ever been given out by the chamber. Mike reported that it had not, but that they could look into it.

#### **VI. Other Matters**

Tim Malone reported on a proposal by the Metropolitan Water District to build a pipeline to the soon to be constructed UConn Research Center in Storrs. This proposal, which would take water from the Farmington River Watershed, would have serious repercussions for the region. The group agreed. Tim reported that CCRPA was writing a letter in opposition to the proposal.

Lou Perillo mentioned that CT Online Computing Center was opening in Southington soon.

Natural gas legislation was brought up. It was reported that local oil dealers were opposing provisions that would favor gas lines over oil heat.

**VII. Adjournment was declared at approximately 1:30 pm**