



DRAFT

Central Connecticut Economic Development Alliance Meeting Minutes

Noon; Monday; December 16, 2013; 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. – AB
	Justin Malley - Ec. Dev.	Plainville
	Mike Nicasro - Chamber (com. orgs.) – AB	Robert E. Lee – Manager – AB
Burlington	Tod Kallenbach – Econ. Dev – AB	Plymouth
	Mike Scheidel – Chamber – AB	Southington
New Britain	Vacant – AB	Louis Perillo - Ec. Dev.

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 was Tammy Warner (UConn Office of Economic Development, Small Business Development Center), and Representative Whit Betts.

II. Update roundtable (12:19)

Mark DeVoe reported that activity was slow. Phoenix Soil is still in the process of moving to Plainville. DEEP was vetting the application for over a year, but movement is now occurring. The Town has had less than 50,000 square feet of approvals. The cancer center project is moving along.

Mark also reported that Bristol, Plainville, and Plymouth are close to choosing a consultant for the EDA-funded flooding study. A minimum of 10 projects will result from the study. They expect to award the contract in January. They will also be submitting flood map revisions at the end of the study.

Lou Perillo reported that activity was accelerating in Southington. The Town hired a new planner and is working with Plainville on the rails to trails project. Industrial lots are selling briskly (9 sold in the last 3 months). CT Online Computing is moving into town. They are also starting to get

some interest in the currently vacant Hartford building. A new anaerobic digester company is moving into town and Supreme Forest Products is setting up shop.

Margus Laan reported that reach for the stars dance studio recently opened. He also added that the flooding study would focus on business areas and damaged businesses.

III. Approval September 16, 2013 Minutes

Justin Malley (Bristol) joined by phone. Quorum confirmed. Justin Malley noted that the minutes incorrectly listed him as absent.

12:17 MOTION – Justin Malley moved to approve the minutes with the above noted change; seconded by Lou Perillo

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

IV. Discussion of projects/priorities for disaster resiliency plan

Tim Malone asked for project ideas for the disaster resiliency plan. He noted that he and other staff had met with the public works directors for each of the seven towns to gather project priorities. Lou Perillo mentioned the area North of Mill Street in Southington as a priority, as well as the rail bridge near Curtis Street.

A discussion of areas where damage occurred during recent events began. The site of the former Pepsi building at the bottom of Fall Mountain in Plymouth was mentioned as a site that frequently floods. Field Plumbing in Plainville experienced at least \$100,000 in losses and had to shut down for a few weeks during Irene.

CT Tool and Manufacturing was without power for nine days during the October snow storm. It was noted that, in these situations, clients do not care about the weather, they just want their products.

The groups suggested that a list of priority areas be compiled.

V. Disaster Resiliency Workshop

Tim told the group about meetings he had regarding the planning of a workshop for small and medium-sized businesses. The workshop would focus on business continuity planning. CCRPA is working with the CCSU Institute of Technology and Business Development on the conference.

VI. Other matters.

Tammy Warner introduced the group to the newly established Connecticut Small Business Development Center at the Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce. This is part of UConn's Office of Economic Development and is intended to assist small businesses.

It was noted that the Step-Up program has a lot of money available for companies to hire vets. Up to \$20/hour.

VIII. Adjournment was declared at approximately 1:17 pm