



**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	Tim Stewart – Chamber – AB
Bristol	Ken Cockayne – Mayor – AB	Steven Schiller - Ec. Dev.
	Justin Malley - Ec. Dev.	Plainville
	Jim Albert – Chamber	Robert E. Lee – Manager – AB
Burlington	Tod Kallenbach – Econ. Dev – AB	Mark DeVoe - Ec. Dev. (Chair)
	Mike Scheidel – Chamber – AB	Plymouth
		Margus Laan - Ec. Dev. – AB
New Britain	Vacant – AB	Southington
		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)**

II. **Approval December 16, 2013 Minutes**

**12:17 MOTION** – Lou Perillo moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Jim Mahoney

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

III. **Update roundtable (12:19)**

Mark DeVoe reported that subdivisions are slow in Plainville. Has been an uptick in development along Route 10. Connecticut Commons is also fully leased except one building. There is a new florist in downtown. Work has begun on installing sanitary sewers along New Britain Avenue to serve the new cancer treatment center in New Britain and Plainville.

Justin Malley reported that Hobby Lobby will be opening a location on Route 6. The Southeast Business Park is seeing some activity: GMN USA is coming and will hire 6-10 employees; Total Wall Systems is also moving in and an existing tenant is looking to expand. The Bristol Press

building (in Downtown) is going to auction. There will be a façade improvement program in the city's west, funded through the Urban Act (DECD).

Jim Albert reported that 10 main street is on the market in Berlin. Sonic is opening a location on Route 6. There will be a new children's gym across from CCRPA's offices and a buyer for the boys club building has been found. He also reported on the Boulevard School Task Force. There is a use committee, a historic committee, and a facility committee. Options for reusing the school are currently being investigating.

Jim also reported on a new manufacturing training program that is responding to the renaissance in manufacturing in the city. The program ties trainees to specific jobs. They will be partnering with Adult-Ed (Rowly Spring) and will open a factory to train students on the different processes. The chamber is also working with Veterans Affairs on placing veterans in jobs.

Lou Perillo reported that Galaxy Policy is now built out. Connecticut Online Computers Corporation is moving into 100 Executive Boulevard (the former Hartford office complex). A buyer has also been found for 200 Executive Boulevard. The Greenway Commons Building is coming down soon, making way for a redevelopment project. Two new buildings are coming to Industrial Drive and 200 units of market rate housing have been approved. 214 units of workforce housing have also been approved.

Steve Schiller reported that Costco has received all necessary city approvals. They are still waiting on state approval for traffic impacts. The Hospital of Central Connecticut Cancer Center is nearing completion. They expect it to open in 2015. A small plaza is being developed on East St near CCSU. Some local manufacturers are purchasing new buildings on Newington Ave. Polymer Precision's new facility in Pinnacle Heights (EDA funded) will be completed soon.

#### **IV. CCRPA Transition Update**

Tim Malone reported on the consolidation process. He reported that CCRPA will cease to be a Regional Planning Organization in December but that options regarding the Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Economic Development District are still being weighed.

#### **V. Disaster Resiliency Workshop**

Tim reported on the successful Disaster Resiliency Workshop that CCRPA held.

#### **VI. Grant Opportunities**

Tim reminded the group of EDA deadlines for Public Works grants. No projects were reported as being ripe. He also offered to assist the towns with other grant applications, such as CT Main Street Investment Fund.

#### **VII. Other matters.**

Julie Geyer reported on Capital Workforce Partner's work. Their new strategic plan is scheduled to go to the board soon. They have been involved in a new strategic planning process that seeks to unify their budget and planning processes.

#### **VIII. Adjournment was declared at approximately 12:57 pm**