



GBRC

Greater Bridgeport Regional Council

Bridgeport • Easton • Fairfield • Monroe • Stratford • Trumbull

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Greater Bridgeport Regional Council

Monday, April 7, 2014
Greater Bridgeport Regional Council Conference Room
Bridgeport, Connecticut

Name	Representing
Bill Finch, Mayor	Bridgeport
Adam Dunsby, First Selectman	Easton
Mike Tetreau, First Selectman	Fairfield
Steve Vavrek, First Selectman	Monroe
John Harkins, Mayor	Stratford
Timothy Herbst, First Selectman	Trumbull
Brian Bidolli, Executive Director	GBRC
Meghan Sloan, Senior Transportation Planner	GBRC
Colleen Kelleher, Administrative Assistant	GBRC
Mary Ellen Lemay	
Karen Burnaska	
Mike	Durant, Nichols, Houston, Hodgson & Cortese-Costa

Minutes

I. Call to Order

This was a regular meeting of the GBRC. It was called to order by the Chair, First Selectman Herbst, at 1:11 pm. A quorum was declared.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Council meeting held on January 29, 2014 were reviewed. A motion was made by First Selectman Vavrek and seconded by Mayor Harkins to accept the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to take the meeting out of order. Communications and Announcements (IV) and Action Items (V), were moved before Executive Session (II). A Motion was made by First Selectman Dunsby and seconded by John Harkins.

III. Communications and Announcements

1. **FY 2014-2015 Work Program Status / Meeting Calendar / Financial Report**

Mr. Bidolli went over the amended MPO and GBRC meeting calendar with the council. Mr. Bidolli explained that new officers would be nominated at the GBVMPO meeting on April 8th and that everyone should think of nominations. First Selectman Herbst is recommended to be Chair and share duties with the Valley Council of Governments, after asking if anyone else was interested First Selectman Herbst accepted being the MPO chair.

Mr. Bidolli went over the financial summary and plans to close out grants by the end of the fiscal year. The GBRC is well under the operations budget, and some money will carry over into the next year. Direct labor, the GBRC is on track and well within the budget.

2. **Regional Plan of Conservation and Development**

An evote was sent out prior to the council meeting regarding negotiations with a preferred consultant and ConnDot and was approved unanimously. Mr. Bidolli asked the CEO's to think about their nominations from Planning and Zoning to sit on the Planning Advisory Committee from each town. First Selectman Dunsby recommended the Town Planner from Easton, John Hayes. Mayor Finch also stressed the importance of nominating people to sit on the committee.

3. **Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan/ UI Tree Trimming Practices**

Mr. Bidolli met with Amy Lappos of Congressman Himes' office last week in order to expedite the Hazard Mitigation process, and is trying to get in front of FEMA review. Mr. Bidolli went on to go over a fact sheet discussing vegetation management and encouraged the council members to get comments from their staff.

First Selectman Tetreau explained the definition of a tree and the tree trimming process. Fairfield is currently in a pilot program starting June 1st that will impact 20,000-25,000 trees over the next eight years. First Selectman Tetreau is concerned about things that don't get discussed, like permits to cover the circuit, and trees being cut that don't meet the definition of a tree.

Mayor Finch noted that Bridgeport is currently in a pilot program, and sometimes the wrong species of tree is planted on the wrong side of the street, and sometimes mistakes are made and trees get cut for no reason. Mayor Finch does not mind being part of the pilot program; the utilities will plant more trees although smaller.

Mayor Finch wants to know what towns have tree wardens. First Selectman Herbst asked the GBRC to organize a meeting to get all of the tree wardens in the area together. Mr Bidolli mentioned there would be a Conservation Technical Advisory Committee meeting on April 21st and he would work on a presentation with the tree wardens.

4. Regional GIS Program Update

Mr. Bidolli advised the council on the production of the GIS program, and the GIS team is moving quickly on parcels and the parcels will be updated next month. Mr. Bidolli is currently negotiating a software agreement with ESRI that will benefit all six towns. All towns will have access, and Mr. Bidolli would like to coordinate with each town to see what they need.

VI. Action Items

1. Bylaw Revisions – GBRC, Conservation Technical Advisory Committee

Ms. Lemay and Ms. Burnaska, Co chairs of the Conservation Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC) mentioned that of their meetings there has only been one quorum. Ms. Lemay handed out a list of members to the council and discussed the amendments to the bylaws and the attendance. Ms. Lemay would like one staff member and one conservation member from each town to attend the meetings.

Ms. Burnaska recommended the ability to have an electronic vote. She used Rebuild by Design as an example, an action was supported but there could not be a vote because there was no quorum.

Mr. Bidolli noted the issue was making the members realize the requirements and staff oriented discussions were not getting to the CEO's. Any members of CTAC should have good communication with the town.

A Motion was made by Mayor Finch to approve the revisions and seconded by First Selectman Tetreau. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program

Mr. Bidolli explained the LOTCIP allocations and schedule to the Council. Mr Bidolli, recommended taking a look into federal aid and what would need to be absorbed into the new program. Moose Hill road has been removed from the program, First Selectman Herbst mentioned that there had been a fatality on Moose Hill Road four years ago. Mr. Bidolli mentioned a falling bridge in Easton that was in serious need, and there were not many eligible roads.

First Selectman Vavrek asked about Route 25 and the Pequonnock River Trail. Mr. Bidolli explained that the 25/111 study will take place this year and the Pequonnock River Trail is scheduled for 2016 or 2017. Mr. Bidolli mentioned that the current plan is a good representation of the region. Once the Council approves the document, Towns would be invited to work on a formal application.

A motion was made by Mayor Harkins and seconded by First Selectman Vavrek to approve the LOTCIP plan. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Metropolitan Planning Organization

Mr. Bidolli suggested the idea of a statewide MPO and how the approval process would work. Mayor Finch agreed that it would be a good idea for the region. There was a discussion of future investments, and economic development. Mr. Bidolli would send the resolution to Commissioner Redeker.

A motion was made by Mayor Finch and seconded by Mayor Harkins to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Brownfields Assessment Program

Mr. Bidolli explained the list of brownfields projects.

A motion was made by Mayor Harkins and seconded by First Selectman Tetreau to approve the list of brownfields projects. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Executive Session

At 2:14, a motion was made by First Selectman Vavrek and seconded by First Selectman Dunsby to go into Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously. At 2:50, a motion was made by First Selectman Vavrek and seconded by First Selectman Dunsby to end the Executive Session.

VII. Adjourn

Having no further business, First Selectman Vavrek made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mayor Finch. The meeting adjourned at 3:56 pm.

First Selectman Tetreau made a motion to amend the Council bylaws. The motion was seconded by First Selectman Dunsby. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectively submitted,

Steve Vavrek, First Selectman
GBRC Secretary *pro tem*