

**MINUTES OF THE 1/15/2009  
HVCEO MEETING  
AT BROOKFIELD, CT TOWN HALL**

**MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES IN ATTENDANCE**

Bethel.....First Selectman Robert Burke  
Bridgewater.....Alternate Robert Brown  
Brookfield.....First Selectman Robert Silvaggi,  
Alternate Selectman Jerry Murphy  
Danbury.....Mayor Mark Boughton  
New Fairfield.....First Selectman John Hodge  
New Milford.....Mayor Patricia Murphy, Vice Chairman  
Newtown.....Alternate Selectman Paul Mangiafico  
Redding..... First Selectman Natalie Ketcham  
Ridgefield.....First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Secretary-Treasurer  
Sherman.....First Selectman Andrea O'Connor, Chairman

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Carla Iezzi of Conn DOT, CCM's Director of Public Policy Gian-Carl Casa, Russell Cornelius of the Brookfield Lyme Disease Task Force, Karen Gaudian of the Ridgefield Lyme Disease Task Force, Maggie Shaw and Dave Shugarts of the Newtown Lyme Disease Task Force.

Also Frances Ryan of the HVCEO Lyme Disease Task Force, Andrea Rynn of Danbury Hospital, Ann Katis and Rick Schreiner of HART, Dirk Perrefort of the News Times, Bethel Health Director Laura Vasile, Danbury Health Director Scott Leroy, and from the HVCEO staff Camille Acquanita, David Hannon and Jonathan Chew.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Andrea O'Connor at 12:30 PM, after which attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment was offered by Andrea Rynn, Manager of Community and Government Relations for Danbury Hospital. She distributed a fact sheet outlining the Hospital's initiatives with Lyme related community education, advocacy, medical education and research.

As for upcoming research, she announced that private funding had been obtained for Danbury Hospital to undertake a comprehensive, inclusive, multi-year research effort to gather and assess information regarding reporting, diagnosis and treatment.

Patients, physicians, scientists and researchers from varying backgrounds and viewpoints will be involved. This effort can be a model for the state in addressing some of the complex issues involved with Lyme, she said. Council members then expressed their strong support with applause for this much needed research effort.

**ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVALS AND REPORTS**

**--- Minutes from 11/21/2008:** On a motion made by Bob Burke and seconded by Pat Murphy, the minutes of the meeting of 11/21/2008 were unanimously approved with an abstention by Andrea O'Connor who was not in attendance.

**--- Minutes from 12/5/2008:** Then on a motion made by Rudy Marconi and seconded by Natalie Ketcham, the minutes of the meeting of 12/5/2008 were unanimously approved, again with abstention by Andrea O'Connor who was not in attendance.

--- **Financial Statements for 11/2008 and 12/2008:** On a motion made by Rudy Marconi and a second by Robert Brown, the financial statements for 11/2008 and 12/2008 were unanimously approved.

--- **Alliance for Sensible Airspace Planning:** Alliance Chairman Rudy Marconi gave the members a report on the group's activities. The goal remains to oppose poorly conceived flight pattern changes that will negatively impact the Greater Danbury Area. He noted that fund raising has reached the \$1 million mark and continues via approaches to environmental foundations.

Also, for the formal challenge to the FAA Attorney General Blumenthal is now in the lead with the Alliance's legal firm in a supporting role. Attorney Blumenthal will personally present the appeal in federal appellate court and document in detail how the incomplete FAA analysis violates federal law.

Questions and answers followed. On behalf of the Council, Natalie Ketcham offered a public statement of gratitude to Rudy Marconi for admirably representing the region's interest, followed by applause.

--- **Procedures for Adopting the Draft 2009 Regional Plan:** Jon Chew referred to an agenda attachment listing steps to date and anticipated upcoming outreach activities regarding 2009 Regional Plan input and adoption. Key chapters had been presented by PowerPoint at the September and October Council meetings.

Copies of the full 2009 Draft Plan were then distributed to each member. He noted that the ten municipal planning commissions will also receive a copy along with an offer by him to visit with a PowerPoint presentation defining recommendations for the municipality.

--- **Regional Priorities for Federal Stimulus Funding:** Dave Hannon referred to a handout updating the agenda attachment as to recommended priorities for HVCEO's previously completed "shovel ready" regional transportation projects list, this additional step recently requested by Conn DOT.

There was discussion of the process. The consensus was for staff to continue to apply a "fair share" dollar distribution approach as originally recommended. It was noted that tying municipal shares to municipal percentages of the regions daily total person trips is an objective measure of transportation activity and helps all towns to benefit.

It was also agreed that the input process is to be kept open for several days to accommodate New Milford and any other member with a potential change or addition.

--- **Emergency Preparedness Update:** Dave Hannon reported that preparation of the DEMHS Region 5 emergency preparedness plan is moving ahead nicely. Unique among the five plans in the state, a response focus on geographic subareas will be featured, Greater Waterbury, Greater Danbury, and combined Northwest and Litchfield Hills Regions to the north.

There was discussion of poor coordination with Northeast Utilities during weather emergencies and a request that this be addressed by the new plan. John Hodge and Rudy Marconi reported that during weather emergencies NU provided reports on the status of its activities within the municipality that were entirely inaccurate. Also, that vehicle and equipment staging areas were chosen by the utility at random and not in consultant with the municipality or any officially approved plan.

Dave Hannon also reported that DEMHS will soon be contacting each municipality for memos of understanding as to ownership of federal grant funded equipment. If questions or problems

arise on the MOU, please contact him. He also reported that the fiduciary agreement whereby HVCEO acts as grant administrator for the Northwest Regional Hazmat Response Team Advisory Board was now in place.

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CT  
CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES**

CCM's Director of Public Policy Gian-Carl Casa then addressed the Council. He distributed copies of CCM's State Legislative priorities for 2009.

Questions and answers followed, including a discussion of federal stimulus funding, coordination of state and town budget adoption cycles and revenue raising techniques. Mr. Casa was then thanked by Chairman O'Connor for his presentation.

**REVIEW OF MISSION FOR  
LYME DISEASE TASK FORCE**

There was considerable discussion of this issue, in which several members of the audience participated. Mark Boughton entered the meeting midway during this agenda item.

The discussion led to a consensus by HVCEO members that a broad approach by the Task Force is recommended, the group's mission not to be limited exclusively to upfront education and prevention activities as discussed at some meetings.

As for setting detailed direction for the group, HVCEO members requested that instead the Task Force itself develop a list of activities to undertake, keeping HVCEO informed. Also, that the group should cooperate with Danbury Hospital in its upcoming regional study of issues relating to tick borne disease reporting, diagnosis and treatment.

**DRAFT SHORELINE MANAGEMENT  
PLAN FOR CANDLEWOOD LAKE**

There was discussion as to the effort of the utility owner to place management costs on lakeside property owners that should be more properly bore by the utility itself, and to institutionalize such an arrangement within a FERC approved shoreline management plan.

It was agreed that the shoreline management plan topic will appear on future HVCEO agendas to enable lakeside communities to exchange views and coordinate their positions as necessary.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2009 OFFICERS**

A report on this topic was then given by the Nominating Committee consisting of Natalie Ketcham, Pat Murphy and Bob Burke. Natalie Ketcham spoke for the Committee.

She stated that due to pressing personal commitments Chairman Andrea O'Connor would not be nominated for a consecutive term as Chairman, but would be willing to serve as Vice Chairman. Also that the current Vice Chairman Pat Murphy was willing to move up to Chairman, and current Secretary-Treasurer Rudy Marconi was willing to remain in that position.

The Committee's resulting recommendation then was to nominate Pat Murphy for Chairman, Andrea O'Connor for Vice Chairman and Rudy Marconi for Secretary-Treasurer.

Then on a motion made by Natalie Ketcham and a second by John Hodge, the proposed slate of officers for 2009 was unanimously approved.

**OTHER BUSINESS / ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 P.M.