

**Regional and Economic Development Committee
Conference Call
APPROVED Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2021
3:00 PM**

Members Present via GoToMeeting: Committee Chair Marcia LeClerc, Board Chair Suzanne Hopgood, DOT Commissioner Jim Giulietti, DECD Deputy Commissioner Alexandra Daum, Bob Patricelli

Staff Present via GoToMeeting: Mike Freimuth, Anthony Lazzaro and Kim Hart

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 pm by Mayor Leclerc and the minutes of the November 9, 2018 meeting were approved on a voice vote.

Mr. Freimuth updated the Committee on various projects:

1. **Hartford Regional Agricultural Market** – Mr. Freimuth reported that the Market was transferred to CRDA from the Department of Agriculture in 2018. Since that time, CRDA has been attempting to address the most pressing operational and infrastructure needs of the facility. Capital improvements have been made, tenant leases have been updated and a new management group, RM Bradley, has been selected to oversee day-to-day operations. Mr. Freimuth, noted, however, that the long-term future of the Market, still needs to be addressed and, to that end, CRDA has issued an RFP for a firm to explore development options. Proposals are due on January 22nd and staff will present an update on the process at the next Committee meeting.
2. **The Borden, Wethersfield** - Mr. Freimuth reported that construction of the Wethersfield project is complete and the units are nearly fully leased.
3. **Former National Welding Site, Newington** - Demolition of the buildings on site has been completed and the Town is in negotiations with a hotel developer. The site's proximity to CTfastrak could tie it into a larger TOD project.
4. **East Hartford Projects**
 - a. **Goodwin College Area Drainage** Improvements - The first two phases have been completed and a third phase is currently being designed.
 - b. **Showcase Cinemas Site** - Following demolition of the theater, the Town is currently in discussions with potential developers for the site.

- c. **Founders Plaza** – CRDA is working with the Town and the owner of the site on a development plan. The design team will be presenting a new plan iteration to the group on January 15th.

5. **Riverfront Recapture**

- a. **Great River Park** – Design of park improvements on the East Hartford side of the river is nearly complete and Riverfront Recapture is working through permitting issues.
 - b. **Hartford Riverwalk** – Demolition work is nearly complete and environmental cleanup work is ongoing on the last section of the Riverwalk to be developed.
6. **Front Street** – Mr. Freimuth noted that the restaurants and theaters within the Front Street District have been severely impacted by the COVID pandemic. In addition to opening restrictions, the loss of Downtown Hartford employees and UConn students has forced at least one restaurant to close. Leasing at the Lofts and new Arch Street apartments is currently in the 80% - 86% range.
7. **Bushnell South** – CRDA is working with the Bushnell, Spinnaker Real Estate Partners and the City to develop the area along Capital Avenue. A design team has been selected and a contract is expected to be signed shortly.
8. **Windsor Locks** – The Town of Windsor Locks has reached out to CRDA for assistance with developing some blighted sites. As the Town is outside of CRDA’s statutorily defined work area, CRDA’s financial assistance and/or or logistical support is contingent upon a legislative change.
9. **Other Business** – A memo outlining a schedule of meeting dates has been sent to all members.

The next meeting of the Regional & Economic Development Committee is scheduled for February 11, 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.