



**SOUTHEASTERN
CONNECTICUT
COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS**

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Representing 22 towns, cities, and
boroughs in Southeastern
Connecticut.

Minutes of the January 17, 2026, Meeting of the Southeastern CT Council of Governments

Present:

Bozrah	-	New London	Michael Passero
Colchester	-	North Stonington	Bob Carlson
East Lyme	Dan Cunningham	Norwich	-
Franklin	Judi Novosad	Preston	-
Griswold	Tina Falck	Salem	Sue Spang
Jewett City	Laurie Sorder	Sprague	Cheryl Blanchard
City of Groton	Jill Rusk	Town of Stonington	-
Town of Groton	John Burt	Stonington Borough	Michael Scheffers
Lebanon	Kathleen Smith	Waterford	-
Ledyard	Fred Allyn	Windham	Tom Devivo
Lisbon	Tom Sparkman	SEAT Rep (MPO)	Tom Sparkman
Montville	-	CT DOT Rep (MPO)	-
Military Liaisons:	US Coast Guard Academy: - New London SUBASE: Captain Craig Litty		
Tribal Affiliates:	Mohegan Tribe: - Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation: Bob Hayward		

Additional Attendees: SECOG: Amanda Kennedy, Taylor Lussier, Wendy Leclair, Kate Rattan, Helen Zincavage, Dave Cook, Jennifer Lindo, Dominic Anziano, Avery Holzworth
Office of Sen. Murphy: Erin McBride. Office of Rep. Courtney: Noah Carver seCTer: Paul Whitescarver. Eversource: Rebecca Spurrier, Jaquan Samuels, Pete Dimeo. Health District: Jen Muggeo (LLHD), Patrick McCormack (UNCAS)

1) Call to Order:

- a) The meeting was called to order by Bob Carlson at 8:32 am.

2) Roll Call:

- a) Ms. Kennedy determined that a quorum was present.

3) Act on Minutes of the December 17th meeting Action Item

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office@secogct.gov.*

Si necesita asistencia lingüística, por favor comuníquese a SECOG.

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a) MOTION: To approve the December meeting minutes (DeVivo, Allyn). Motion passed unanimously.

4) Treasurer's Report *Action Item*

a) MOTION: To approve the Treasurer's Report (Scheffers, Blanchard). Motion passed unanimously.

5) Communications

6) Public Comment:

a) Eversource (Rebecca Spurrier) introduced Pete DiMeo from community relations. She reported that Eversource is monitoring an upcoming cold weather system and reminded municipalities to keep their single points of contact up to date.

7) Speaker:

a) Kate Rattan: SECOG Safety Action Plan: Kate Rattan provided an overview of the draft Safety Action Plan (SAP). The plan uses a five-year crash data set to identify high-injury locations and target crash types likely to result in injury or death. Organized around the federal "Safe System" approach, the plan includes 55 motorized and 23 non-motorized projects scattered throughout the region. Municipalities were encouraged to provide feedback through an online project dashboard before the public comment period ends on February 21st. Adoption of the plan is targeted for March, which will make towns eligible for Safe Streets for All (SS4A) implementation grants. Kate Rattan announced a public meeting for the Safety Action Plan scheduled for the following day at 5:30 PM.

b) Helen Zincavage, Housing Affordability (PA 25-1): Helen Zincavage discussed the new housing bill and its requirements. Key deadlines include July 1, 2026, for mandatory zoning changes and June 1, 2028, for the submission of local or regional housing growth plans. The bill introduces "Summary Review," a process between "as of right" and "special permit," for "missing middle" housing (2-9 units) in commercial or mixed-use zones. It also restricts municipalities from setting parking minimums for projects with 16 units or fewer. Regional housing

allocations will be based on factors such as transit proximity, job access, and developable land inventory. Zincavage noted that the lowest 20 municipalities in terms of adjusted grand list per capita (including Norwich, New London, Windham, and Sprague) are exempt from receiving an allocation.

8) Committee and Liaison Reports

a) Executive Committee

i) [Minutes 1/7/26](#)

ii) TIP Amendment: [CTDOT/WRTD Facility Rehab/Expansion](#)

MOTION: Endorse the CTDOT/WRTD Facility Rehab Expansion. (DeVivo, Allyn) Motion passed unanimously.

iii) LOTCIP Application: [Ledyard- Lantern Hill Rd:](#)

MOTION: Endorse the application for Lantern Hill Rd in Ledyard for LOTCIP funding. (DeVivo, Blanchard) Motion passed unanimously.

iv) LOTCIP Application: [Norwich- Hunters Rd:](#)

MOTION: Endorse the application for Hunters Rd in Norwich for LOTCIP funding. (Burt, Allyn) Motion passed unanimously.

b) Legislative Committee – [Minutes 1/6/26](#)

Senator Osten is requesting letters from individual municipalities to support adding \$85 million back to the Pequot/Mohegan Fund for municipal distribution.

c) Tribal Liaison Representatives: Discussion ensued regarding the historical intent of the fund, which was originally negotiated to offset the municipal impact of tribal gaming monopolies.

d) Military Command Representatives:

i) Naval Submarine Base: Capt. Craig Litty reported that the USS California returned from deployment, while the Newport News has changed homeports for deconditioning. A major two-year construction project is underway to support Virginia-class submarines. Additionally, a mutual aid agreement for fire and emergency services is being finalized with the City of Norwich.

- e) Congressional Office Reports:
Erin McBride (Sen. Murphy's Office) and Noah Carver (Rep. Courtney's Office):
Reported that Congress is working to pass the final six appropriations bills by a January 30th deadline. The RAISE grant application deadline is February 24th.
- f) seCTer: It was announced that \$95,000 in grants were awarded to regional businesses last week, with significant winners in East Lyme and New London.
- g) Eastern CT Tourism District
- h) SEAT
- i) Regional Water Committee
- j) Regional Emergency Planning Team
- k) Regional Human Services Coordinating Council: The United Way has launched a new volunteer matching tool to help residents maintain eligibility for SNAP benefits.
- l) Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition
- m) Health Districts: Jen Muggeo (LLHD) and Patrick McCormack (UNCAS) reported that the flu season peaked in late December with over 4,900 cases and is now declining. They warned of increased calls regarding lack of heat and burst pipes due to the cold. Oversight for large-capacity septic systems is also shifting from the state to local health districts.
- n) Solid Waste Committee: Requests regarding Solid Waste permitting in the region were incorporated into the Legislative Agenda.
- 9) Executive Director's Report: Amanda Kennedy announced two budgets for consideration: FY27 and an amendment to FY26. Funding received through SS PA 25-1 enables SECOG to staff housing and technical assistance or storm water management; SECOG is recommending the funding be used for storm water management assistance.
- 10) Old Business
- 11) New Business

12) Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 8:30 am at SECOG.

13) Adjournment: MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 am. (Rusk, Devivo) Motion passed unanimously.