

WATERBURY PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, September 22, 2025

In Attendance

Commissioners: Martha Staskus, Dana Allen, Kati Gallagher

Public: Monica White (Green Mountain Transit), Duncan McDougal, Alyssa Johnson

Agenda review and possible modifications

Kati Gallagher asked to add an update on the Better Connections Grant Project.

Announcements and General public comments

There were no public comments

Approval of September 8, 2025 Minutes

Dana Allen moved to approve the September 8th minutes as amended. It was seconded by Kati Gallagher.

Motion passed 3-0.

Better Connections Grant Project

The timeline and project scope was discussed. A walking tour will be scheduled from the pavilion in Waterbury Center at a date TBD. The project is underway, the PC will be updated as it progresses.

Municipal Plan Update Tasks:

Discuss the Aspirations, Goals and Strategies for Transportation and Energy.

The PC met with stakeholders for the Transportation and Energy municipal plan chapter. The SE Group prepared a summary of the survey responses received by the PC and Housing in advance of the meeting. The PC engaged with them in a roundtable style discussion about their aspirations, goals and strategies. The PC and SE Group will take feedback from the session and incorporate it into draft chapters.

Monica from GMT said that GMT needs to be at the table from the beginning while planning for transit. She discussed targeted businesses for transportation for their employees. Metrics for routes were discussed. The Waterbury Commuter and Montpelier Burlington link service that stops in Waterbury. Gopher is operated by Capstone, which is a ride hailing service. GMT also has a Demand Response service, for Medicaid funded non-emergency transportation. The older and disabled program is another Demand Response service. Reimbursing volunteer drivers is a goal of GMT, called the Community Driver program. Looking for opportunities to further expand the volunteer program. GMT will be renamed Tri-Valley Transit on July 1st, 2026 for Washington County. Goal to develop a safe multi-modal wide pathway that connects significant parts of town. The path can provide an option for bike-ped mobility with connections into the GMT fixed-route system to encourage bikers use the path and busses together.

Duncan McDougal discussed the Energy Chapter goals. Goal 6 can merged into goal 1. Goal number 5 can be merged into goal 2. Goal 8 was moved to Transportation. Goal 7 will be moved to land use. Strategies were reviewed and discussed. Some strategies will be moved to land use and transportation.

Future AGS meetings with Stakeholders:

The next PC meeting falls on Indigenous People's Day, so the municipal offices will be closed. The Planning Commission will meet to discuss the draft AGS presentation for Natural Resources and Flood Resilience. They will also review a draft Municipal Chapter.

Changes to the stakeholder meeting schedule is as follows:

Natural Resources and Flood Resilience AGS meeting will be moved from October 13th to November 10th.

Land Use AGS meeting is scheduled for December 8th.

8:25 p.m. Adjournment