

**Minutes**  
**Meeting of the Boards of Selectmen of the Region**  
**August 13, 2009**  
**Town Hall — Brookfield**

**Present:** Mary Walter, North Brookfield; David Eisenthal, Barry Nadon, Tom Long, West Brookfield; Bob Souza, David Delanski, Bob Downing, Warren; Jim Allen, Peter O'Connell, Rudy Heller, Brookfield

**Also Present:** Ken Lacey, Tree Warden, Warren and Patty Sinko,

**I. Tree Warden** Ken Lacey, Tree Warden, Warren, presented the idea of regionalizing the Tree Warden position. He recognizes that several area towns do not specify this position, other than tacking it on as an additional duty for the Highway Department. He also recognizes that the position in several towns does not have a specific budget but only an expense line (mostly for tree cutting) in the town budget.

His proposal would be to offer the services of a professional arborist to the towns, along with a more comprehensive approach to tree management, including inventory, cutting, planting, purchasing of trees, and setting up a nursery. Monies expended in paying for a Regional Tree Warden can be recouped by following the integral method he proposes.

More than achieving cost savings to the towns, using a professional arborist would improve services.

In addition to the budgetary issue, another stumbling block could be changing the position from an elected to an appointed post.

The attendees took Mr. Lacey's comments under advisement, and asked several questions.

**II. Creation of a COG** David Eisenthal presented an outline for an approach to studying the concept of a Council of Governments (see attached document). We now have a defined plan of action to further study this concept. After a Q&A period, the attendees agreed that each would discuss in their respective Selectboards the proposal to create a COG, designate a person (either a Selectman or someone else) to join a Task Force whose purpose will be to study and flesh out the Eisenthal outline, and report to the entire group at a future date. The Task Force would be charged with defining a course of action.

**III. The Community Health Network Area 5** was presented by Patty Sinko. This organization is charged with bringing together all resources available in the area with all the potential users of health-related services. In addition to being the liaison between providers and users, the organization facilitates meetings and provides

mini-grants (of up to \$1000) for health-related projects. Patti has more copies of the Community Assessment Study (dated September 2008) which has valuable statistical and demographic facts for our towns. She will gladly make copies available to whoever needs them.

The following is Patti Sinko's contact information:

Patti Sinko, CHNA  
508-765-6670  
[www.southcentralconnects.org](http://www.southcentralconnects.org)

The group agreed on the following dates:

**Thursday, Sept. 17** 6:30 pm.— Next Meeting of Regional Selectboards – North Brookfield Elementary School –

**Thursday, October 15** 6:30 pm.— Kopelman & Paige Seminar on Open Meeting Law and Public Records Law – Town Hall. Open to Selectmen and other public officials invited by their respective Boards of Selectmen.

**Thursday, October 22** 6:30 pm.— Next Meeting of Regional Selectboards – West Brookfield Town Hall

Rudy Heller will contact members of the Board of East Brookfield and New Braintree to put them up to date and to invite them to attend the upcoming meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm