



Connecticut Greenways Council

c/o CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 424-3578
www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/

Council Meeting Minutes January 8, 2018

9:30 AM to 10:30AM,

VHB, Inc. offices, 100 Great Meadow Road Suite 200, in Wethersfield, CT.

Bruce Donald
Tri-State Coordinator,
East Coast Greenway
Chairman

Lois Bruinooge
Executive Director
Last Green Valley

Bob Dickinson
Appalachian Mtn. Club

Michelle Eckman
Director of Education
CT Audubon Society

Joe Hickey
CT Forest & Park Assoc.

Jamie Lintner
Eversource Energy

Rista Malanca
Naugatuck River
Greenway

Stacey Stearns
CT Horse Council

William D. O'Neill
East Coast Greenway
Past Chairman

Laurie Giannotti
Ex-Officio
CT Dept. of Energy &
Environmental Protection

Anna Bergeron
Ex-Officio
CT Dept. of
Transportation

Council Members present:

Bruce Donald, Bob Dickinson, Bill O'Neill, Rista Malanca, Laurie Giannotti, Anna Bergeron

Council Members on the Phone:

Stacey Stearns, Lois Bruinooge, Michelle Eckman

Council Members Absent:

Joe Hickey, Jamie Lintner

Members of the Public Present:

Laura Brown - UConn Extension Community Economic Development, CT Trail Census Project

Kristina Kelly - CT Trail Census Statewide Coordinator

Aaron Budris - Regional Planner, GIS Specialist, NVCOG

Jim Kulpa - VHB, Inc. for DOT's TA Program

Kevin Tedesco - AECOM, Transportation Planner II

Members of the Public on the Phone:

Eric Hammerling - Exec. Dir., CT Forest & Park Assoc., Inc.

Julie Dupont-Woody - Avalonia Land Conservancy

Bill Boles - New England Mountain Biking Assoc. (NEMBA)

Philip Keyes - NEMBA

Kim Bradley - president, Southern CT Chapter NEMBA

Call to Order 9:38

Adoption of Minutes - November minutes approved. Bill O/Bob D motion

Chairman's Report - Bruce Donald reported on:

- Significant funding has been pulled back from DOT affecting key sources for trails and related projects. Details under CTDOT report below.
- Bill O'Neill reminds all that "return on investment" is a critical benefit of trail projects which should always be included in conversations with legislators, funders, etc.. Raised the question should the Transportation Committee in CT co-sponsor any efforts to restore CRTP funding. CGC members discussed and will work toward support vs. co-sponsorship. Asked that CT Tourism be invited to the next CGC meeting.
- Bruce noted private foundations have been significant sources of trail project funding in other New England states.
- Reminder that there are many economic studies available as resources on the [CGC website](#) and the [CT Trail Census](#) website.
- The East Coast Greenway [Bike-Walk Summit](#) will be in Boston this year April 26-27. All are encouraged to attend.
- Going into the New Year, Bruce is pleased to be working with the CGC and looking forward to a productive year. **He is recruiting for Vice Chair and Secretary Positions. Contact him if you are interested.**

Correspondence – Laurie has had conversations with NEMBA regarding statewide single-track network planning as a result of their comments on the DEEP SCORP.

CT DOT and Bike-Ped (BP) Advisory Committee – Anna B reported that many of the State DOT’s programs that fund trails has been pulled back. Examples include Community Connectivity, Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LTCIP), Lets Go CT. The TA program is federally funded and still up and running. DOT operating funding from the State Bond Commission remains their priority. Bike-Ped Projects that are “shovel ready” and funded will move forward; no new projects.

Legislative Report – Special Session began today and will likely conclude in a day or two. Regular session begins Feb 7 ends May 9. Bill O will be working to get the CT Greenways Plate legislation restored.

Old Business –

- CT Recreational Trails Program – Update on strategy to restore funding. Eric Hammerling & Bruce reported that the CGC goal will be to restore \$7million. Two steps involved to restore the program: authorization and allocation of funding. CFPA is currently leading the work with CGC on authorization. The Environment Committee introduced the original legislation and so the goal is to work with that committee’s chairmen to re-introduce the enabling legislation. Meetings will be set up soon and Bruce will be invited. Once the legislation/authorization is accomplished, CGC will have to work to get the Bond Commission to add the item to their agenda, and to insure DEEP’s support to allocate funding.
- Merritt Parkway Greenway – Bruce reported that he will be attending a DOT meeting likely this month. Bill O suggests that CGC focus advocacy on building the Stamford mile first.

New Business – nothing further

Public Q&A – nothing further

Next Meeting – Tuesday February 13th, 2018 at VHB, Inc., Wethersfield

2018 meeting dates, held on the 2nd Mondays of the month are as follows. Other important dates are noted, please mark your calendars:

- March 12
- April 9
- May 14
- June 11; CT Greenways Day Event will be held on Friday the 1st.
- July 9
- August – no meeting
- September 10
- October 8; Trails Symposium will be held on Thursday the 25th
- November 12
- December – no meeting

Adjournment 11:40