



Connecticut Greenways Council

c/o CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

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www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/

Minutes of Board Meeting January 12, 2015

*Bruce Donald
President, Farmington
Valley Trails Council
Chairman

*Tracy Gionfriddo
Northeast Utilities
Acting Secretary

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

*Katherine Rattan
Ex-Officio
CT Dept. of Transportation

*Lois Bruinooge
Last Green Valley

*Jan Collins
CT Horse Council

*Bob Dickinson
Appalachian Mtn. Club

*Lisa Fernandez
President, Farmington
Canal Rail to Trail Assoc.

Joe Hickey
CT Forest & Parks

*Rista Malanca
Naugatuck River Greenway

Steven Mitchell
Board of Directors
East Coast Greenway

William D. O'Neill
East Coast Greenway
Past Chairman

Call to Order 9:32am by Bruce Donald and via Conference Call. Members with * before their names in the list on the left were on the conference call. Visitors: Kevin Tedesco, DOT.

Adoption of Minutes Nov 2014 meeting approved.

Chairman's Report – Bruce Donald

Thanks to David Gumbart for his time served on the Council, he has submitted his resignation and will be missed.

Rista Malanca is our new member representing the Naugatuck River Greenway and she introduced herself.

Bruce requested to move through his priority items due to his time constraint; a meeting with Congresswoman Esty this morning. The items covered were under Old Business and summarized below.

CT DOT & Bike/Ped Advisory Comm. – Kate Rattan

DOT's legislative review is underway. Kate will be able to provide Bill numbers for the Council to consider. RR Liability issue may be a common interest with the CT River COG who are studying CT Valley RR corridor. There may be revisions proposed to strengthen the current multi-user bill. Bruce will contact Kelly Kennedy, of Bike Walk CT, to discuss collaboration on support of that issue.

Governor's State of the State is on CTN and did include focus on transportation with bike/ped priorities. DOT priority is the East Coast Greenway and regional trails that would link to it; consequently, for example, a single track foot trail would not be a priority but multi-use, ADA compliant would be.

The Town of Plainville may be receiving \$625,000.00 for a planning/design project to complete the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in town. Kate reported that this project is now under review at DOT. The funding manager is in question at this time due to the re-org of former RPA and may be managed by CRCOG. Timing, funding may be in place by Sept. Bruce reported that the Farmington Valley Trails Council is focused on facilitating this project in any way.

Acting upon a request by the user community, and working with DEEP, DOT has opened up the Comstock Bridge in Colchester to equestrians.



Minutes of Board Meeting January 12, 2015 - continued

An appointed, volunteer board dedicated to planning and implementing greenways in Connecticut

Old Business -

- Review of 5-Year Plan 2013-18. – Most of the Plan appears to be relevant except for the un-funded items. Bruce asked the Council to consider the Council's role going forward and will initiate a round table via email.
- Restoration of license plate funds – The Council is seeking a legislative champion. Lisa F and Bruce had suggestions.
- Rail with Trail Liability issues perceived by railroads – Bruce provided a draft letter for the Council's review. Bill O commented via email. Kate remarked that utility corridors should also be included. Bruce will be sharing the letter with Congresswoman Esty this morning.

New Business -

- Begin Planning for 2015 CT Greenways Day. Discussion. Laurie requested Council members submit ideas for venue. Suggested we hold the event in Western CT since it has been 2 years. Laurie will send a reminder for folks to submit ideas.
- Tariffville Greenway – reminder to send your comments to Bruce.
- Route 74 Bridge Rehab – reminder to send your comments to Laurie.

Q & A and Announcements -

- Lois B announced that the Last Green Valley has been authorized to operate until 2021; they now have the opportunity to continue to seek federal funding.
- Joe Hickey's achievements were recognized by the CT Forest & Park Association in their CT Woodlands Magazine. See the winter 2015 issue soon to be online at <http://www.ctwoodlands.org/Woodlands>

Next Meeting – Northeast Utilities, March 9th, 2015

Adjournment Conference call ended at 10:10am