



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 February 13, 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, Michelle Eckman, Joe Hickey, Bill O'Neill, Rista Malanca, Stacey Stearns
Laurie Giannotti, Anna Bergeron

Council Members on the Phone:

Council Members Absent:

Lois Bruinooge, 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
Emily Wilson - UConn Extension CLEAR
Jim Kulpa - VHB, Inc. for DOT's TA Program
Charlie Taney - NRVT
Ken Shooshan-Stoller - FHWA

Members of the Public on the Phone:

Kate Rattan - SECCOG.
Julie Dupont-Woody - Avalonia Land Conservancy
Kevin Tedesco - AECOM, Transportation Planner II
Gene Nicols - CT Department of Health

Call to Order 9:35

Acceptance or Revisions to Agenda - Amy Watkins was added to discuss "Watch for Me"

Adoption of Minutes - January minutes approved. Joe Hickey/Charlie Taney

Chairman's/legislative Report

 - Bruce Donald reported on:

- Still seeking Vice Chairman and Secretary.
- Mileage added to the ECG in Cheshire, Plainville and Cheshire.
- Bruce and Eric Hammerling met with Mike Demicco, State Rep head of the Environment Committee. Requested bill to re-authorize the CT Rec Trails Program at 10 million. Vote should happen in the coming months. Joe Hickey raised the importance of the Gov support.
- Kevin Tedesco asked for clarification on last grant round 9.4 million "shovel ready"? That term is misleading as design and planning projects are also eligible under the grant program.
- Kate Rattan commented that construction prices continue to increase and current funding sources for trail projects are insufficient. Recommended a diversification of sources be researched.
- Bruce asked if DEEP is considering return to the national program; LG "no".
- Charlie Taney asked when public input will be needed to assist with re-authorization of CT RTP. Bruce will be notifying folks and providing talking points.

Correspondence – Laurie has received many calls re the status of the CRTP. She has been collecting names of folks who responded to this answer from Laurie: “There is no funding available. However, The CT Greenways Council (CGC) is working with our legislators to re-authorize the program. If successful, we hope to announce a grant round this September in anticipation of funding for the re-authorized program. The CGC will be soliciting the trail community for support of the funds. If you are interested in assisting I will add you to their distribution list.”

CT DOT and Bike-Ped (BP) Advisory Committee – Anna B reported no change from the last meeting report.

Old Business –

- CT Recreational Trails Program – No change from last meeting report.
- CT Trail Census – presentation of results; Kristina Kelly, CT Trail Census Statewide Coordinator. (notes attached); Webinar scheduled for April 3rd and press releases to follow.
- Greenways License plate – Bill O’Neill reported that he is working with Rep. Guerra and others in the next couple of weeks. He requested more names of potential legislators who the CGC members believe would be supportive to be sent to him.
- Merritt Parkway Greenway – Bruce reported that he has seen the DOT study. Stamford, Fairfield and Trumbull are candidates for pilots.
- Bike Lockers – Bill O is beginning this discussion for Manchester including STC certificate strategy.

New Business –

- Begin planning Greenways Day June 1. Laurie will solicit input from the CGC via email.
- Begin planning Trail Symposium October 25th. Laurie will solicit input from the CGC via email
- Amy Watkins, Program Coordinator, presentation on “Watch for Me” (notes attached). Seeking input from CGC on messaging plan for their 2018 outreach campaign. Bruce and Joe suggested their advocacy for separated bike/ped vs. car. Amy noted they cannot advocate for specific legislation because of their nature. Bruce requested crash & injury data. Amy would like to attend CGC member events if possible.
- Charlie Taney – requested assistance from CGC and others present who have experience with DOT challenges presented for potential municipal has mat issues in trail ROWs.

Public Q&A – nothing further

Next Meeting – Tuesday March 12, 2018 at VHB, Inc., Wethersfield

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

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 11:55