

## Minutes of Board Meeting March 9, 2015

### Council Members (X In attendance)

X(phone) Lois Bruinooge - Executive Director, The Last Green Valley

X(phone) Jan Collins - CT Horse Council

Bob Dickinson – Appalachian Mountain Club

X Bruce Donald – President of Farmington Valley Heritage Trails Council

X Tracy Gionfriddo - Northeast Utilities – acting Secretary

X(phone) Rista Malanca – Naugatuck River Greenway

X Joe Hickey - CT Forest & Park Assoc.

William D. O’Neill - East Coast Greenway Alliance

X(phone) Lisa Fernandez – Farmington River

Jason Vincent – Norwich Community Development Authority

X Laurie Giannotti (DEEP Liaison) - Ex-Officio Member

X Katherine Rattan (DOT Non-Motorized Transportation Coordinator) - Ex-Officio Member

Steve Mitchell – Mitchell Auto Group

**Call to Order** 9:36am by Bruce Donald. Visitors: Kevin Tedesco, DOT.

**Adoption of Minutes** January 2015 meeting minutes approved.

### Chairman’s Report – Bruce Donald

Farmington Trail gave grant to Simsbury Free Bike Association. Buying another kiosk for Collinsville near shops at Rte 44.

### Correspondence – Laurie Giannotti

None.

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

Planning study for Plainville gap was accepted. In department review. Should be hearing that can be setting things up in the next few weeks. Still don’t know what authority will be over study.

Stamford plan will be coming through this year as well. ECG will push for test piece as part of the Merritt project.

Merritt Parkway: consultant still reviewing options, reports, etc. Still looking at doing the full project instead of piecing it out.

Project in Bolton for an extension of the greenway. Rec trails funded. Trail along 44 (separate mostly) going from lake into town. Not same as DOT project that involves the lake area and railroad ROW.

### Legislation:

Gov bill stipulates 10M\$ for 25 years for urban connectivity (bike/ped) core areas linking transit. DOT developing how that program will look. Also commitment to priority trails network and maintenance. Dedicated money. Nianatic Rail Station, could be in Rocky Neck State Park which will have multiple negative impacts to funding and park infrastructure.

Bill 1062, DEEP rec trails program funding. Allows for flexibility. Brings overall money to program over time. Administrative fee increase of 150% (can do more than just

staffing needs). (*Council will send out letters of support*). ALSO: this bill refers to the Greenways Council for reviewing funding allocations. May need to be merged with Rec Trails Committee.

Transit District bill, bike committee cautioning. Local authority subverted.  
Review of Plainville, Chesire, and other funding for projects that will be kicking off this summer or going to bid. TAP funding and other tech. support available.  
Willimantic River bridge from Lebanon to Windham going to construction this summer.

### **Legislative Report –**

See above for items presented by DOT  
SB 1061. Fiscal sustainability of state parks. Proposed budget cuts of \$2M.

### **Old Business -**

- Review of 5-Year Plan 2013-18.
  - Duties of council. Need to provide updated information to the public. No longer advise Gov or other agencies on grants because they do not exist.
  - Is there a way for the council to give grants again? Do we take on different role (one that we have taken on now)?
- Restoration of license plate funds
  - No one has picked this up.
  - Where should we concentrate these efforts?
  - Will generate about \$20K per year at most.
  - Group has decided to review other means of funding that would potentially more money.
- **As of 10:38 we lost quorum and the remainder of the meeting was for informational purposes only.**
- Rail with Trail Liability issues perceived by railroads: getting some interest by legislature and other politicians. CT River issues.
- Planning for 2015 CT Greenways Day. – Naugatuck River Greenway hosting, Torrington branch and facilities to accommodate up to 50 people. Second is Pequonick Section and have it at the zoo. Decided to do Naugatuck by consensus. Will also send out an email for comments. Pequonick will be reviewed for future functions. Laurie will begin to gather names for awards and categories.

### **New Business**

New Last Green Valley guide book to include park info.  
Next grant round for rec trails will be announced in a week.

**Public Q&A – None**

**Next Meeting – Eversource, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Adjournment: 10:55 AM**