



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/

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 Litner
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

Melanie Zimyeski
Ex-Officio
CT Dept. of Transportation

Andrea Drabicki
Acting Secretary
Project Planner
Beta Group, Inc

Council Meeting Minutes March 13, 2017

9:30 AM to 10:30AM,

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

We will be meeting in the second floor of the building. You can park in visitor parking. Walk up to the second floor and on your right you will find the offices of VHB. The receptionist will direct you to the conference room.

Conference Call in Number = (712) 432-1212 Participant:

When prompted, enter the assigned Meeting ID: 663-681-285, followed by the # key.

Council Members present:

Bruce Donald, Laurie Giannotti
Bob Dickinson, Rista Malanca, Joe Hickey, Jamie Litner, Andrea Drabicki
Marlon Pena – CT DOT, acting representative for Melanie Zimyeski

Council Members on the Phone:

Lois Bruinooge, Bill O'Neill

Council Members Absent:

Stacey Sterns, Michelle Eckman

Members of the Public Present:

Charlie Taney - Norwalk River Valley Trail
Tim Malone - Capitol Region Council of Governments, Principal Planner, Bike/Ped Planning
Eric Sanderson - Northeastern Council of Governments, Planner
Jessica Mercier - BETA Group, GIS Specialist

Members of the Public on the Phone:

Laura Brown - UConn Extension Community Economic Development, CT Trail Census Project
Gene Nichols - Department of Public Health

Call to Order at 9:35 am



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Introduction of present citizens

Acceptance or Revisions to Agenda - None

Adoption of Minutes

Following corrections were brought to the Council's attention by L. Giannotti:

- Revision proposed by Anna B from CT DOT to the numbers of the CT Connectivity Program - Lori Corrected
- J. Hickey motions to adopt the January 9, 2017 minutes
- R. Malanca seconds the motion
- The Council votes to unanimously adopt the minutes

Chairman's Report – Bruce Donald

Cheshire – Farmington Canal Heritage Trail

- Going to bid
- .6 mi around Dalton industries
- Elevated trail - concrete pilings
- Build a temporary road to build the trail
- Permitting is ready

New Haven

- Everyone has signed (abutting land owners) phase 4 of the FCHT to mile 0 on Long Wharf
- Will look like it goes out to bid
- DOT - says article in the paper was a little preemptive
- Been funded for 5 years and in the courts - looks like it's very close

Plainville

- The Gap Closure Trail Study will resume soon from hiatus (end of March)
- There remain barriers for use along the east/west connector through town center

Greater Hartford Transit District & Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG)

- There will be a feasibility study for a bike share program
- BiCi Co. secured a Capacity grant to run a bike share program
- City of Hartford has adopted new zoning regulations which include bike lanes regulations
 - Job Announcement underway the City is looking for sustainability coordinator which is a grant funded position



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Hartford/East Hartford

- Gap around Pratt and Whitney is left to close
- Bruce to put meetings together
- Discussion with developers around Rentschlers Field area
- ECGA never designated 1.8 miles great river park trails to Founders Bridge will be designated by Greenway council Great river park
- Founders bridge
- Bloomfield 2 miles - will be under construction in March
- Bruce to work with the City of Hartford Sandy Fry

South Windsor

- Is working on a cross-town greenway from the northwest corner of town to southeast corner which connects to an industrial trail to ECG on other side of State Route 384 some of Right Of Way owned by Eversource

Eastern CT:

- E. Sanderson (NECOG) is working on developing a list of contacts for the eastern region

Bolton Project (Bolton Notch)

- \$14 million approved
- Bids came in (just under 10 million)
- Inspection - amount \$3 million?
- 450 day project 3 construction cycles

Moosup Valley

Trail restoration is underway

Putnam

- L. Bruinooge - the intersection of Kennedy drive / technology drive is very critical to solve
- National recreational water trail head at the YMCA
- J. Hickey is asking how to get the trail through the center of Putnam
- CT Greenways Council is happy to spend some time out there in Putnam
- Several members agreed to reach out to Delpha Very, Director Economic Development Agency
- Critical issues:
 - Intersection of Kennedy Drive/ Technology Drive
 - Closing the ECG Gap

Rhode Island

Will be spending more money on trails - legislation passed!!!!

Correspondence – Laurie Giannotti

- Letter from Susan Whalen - out door recreation plan SCORP plan
 - Land and water conservation fund - requires receiving agency to have outdoor rec plan
An appointed, volunteer board dedicated to planning and implementing greenways in Connecticut



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- DEEP purchases open space need plan to receive money
 - Short online survey
 - CT park and recreation association - park and rec directors
 - Conservations commissions
- CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection is conducting a general survey about recreation to be released in the upcoming months
 - Greenways Council is really the only group that can spread the message about connectivity
 - There is a new recreational out door/off road motorized user group called CT Off Road Enthusiasts Coalition, COREC
 - They are a 501c and have been requesting to meet with the CT DEEP Recreational Trails division to discuss matters of sharing state trails with other user groups
 - Bike Ped Advisory Board 2016 Annual Report has been released
 - Urges the Committee to read

Other Notable Correspondence:

- Bike Walk CT – are working on two legislative house bills
- Route 1 - in Fairfield County Bruce is working with France Pickering to secure funding
- East Coast Greenway (ECG) website is under construction
- Nomination for Designated Greenways is now open May 1st is the deadline
- League of American Bicyclists is looking for an Executive Director

CT DOT & Bike/Ped Advisory Comm. –DOT report

- Updating Bike/Ped Plan should be ready by late spring/June
- 10 Road Survey Audit are left to conduct
- In process of finishing up the final reports from the FY 2016
- There has been internal talk - Let's Go CT money - delineating projects and prioritizing
 - DOT currently working out grant language and ideally would be offered and continued through the
 - Community Connectivity Program

Legislative Report - All

Mapping Connectivity

- The Council discusses that there is a disconnect in mapping connectivity. Not all maps are hosted in one central location.
- Gene Nichols – Department of Public Health – would like some monies associated for a digital maps
- GIS at DOT "host" on Exor (???)
- The state should consider having similar design standards like MassGIS and has an established framework that CT could follow
- Existing known trail maps that exist

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GREENWAYS

- ECG maps: New Haven to Suffield – ECG, Charter Oak map,
- COG's have their own delineated maps
- CT Rail Trail interactive online map
- R. Malanca states that the Housatonic Valley Association hired to map all the trails in the NW hills which consists of 21 towns will map all Blue blazed trails, designated bike routes & Greenways
- UConn's Center for Landuse Education and Research (CLEAR) should be the point of contact to maintain mapping throughout the state.
 - Lori to put DOT in touch with CLEAR

Old Business –

- \$5 million has been left in the Governor's budget for the CT Recreational Trails Program (i.e. Recreational Trails Grant Program) the legislature has left in thus far
- Greenways License Plate funding mechanism- Legislative Rojas will get the funding back into the legislative process

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) & the CT Trail Census – Laura Brown, UConn

- Counters are out around the state.
- First newsletter was sent out
- Webinar scheduled at the end of the month for the trail coordinators how to maintain the counters
- Face-to-face training for volunteers collecting the intercept data - clipboard carriers will commence
- Intercept sites may be different locations
- Second week of May & September intercept surveys will commence
- New website just launched
- Working with CLEAR for all the mapping
- <http://ctrailcensus.uconn.edu/>
- Will be the portal for the data working directly
- Census count of 4000 people in 5 weeks – during the winter – occurred in Wilton, CT
- Preliminary reports went out to participating trail network hosts
- Calibration of the counters will commence
- L. Brown and staff are figuring out how to release the data what does the data look like

Funding “in lieu of” CT Recreational Trails Program - Bruce

- Discussion among the Council members regarding engaging Economic Development Legislators
- Naugatuck Valley Trails Council Steering Committee - will reach out to DECD is asking is there is an interest to form a partnership with the Greenways Council to strengthen the cause
- Greenways Council will write a a letter of support when NVTC is ready to approach DECD.

East Coast Greenway Ride the State – June 24, 2017

- Greenways Council will co-sponsor the event



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2017 Trails Symposium

- Tentatively scheduled for the Fall - October
- Where should the symposium be held this year? Same place?
- New venue where the Council wants to draw attention? Further discussion needed.
- GC to ask L. Bruinooge - what might be available in the Putnam area
- R. Malanca - to ask if the Warner theater might be available

New Business –

Greenways Day Friday June 2

- Greenways award - recipient nominations
- And where is the venue going to be held?
- Further discussion needed.

- **Guest – Charlie Taney, Executive Director, Norwalk River Valley Trail.**
- Norwalk River Valley Trails Council
- A 28 mile Multi-Use Trail around Long Island sound for 5 Towns is planned
 - Norwalk, Wilton, Ridgefield, Redding, Danbury - To Rogers Park in Danbury
- There is a 5-town steering committee
- There is a “Friends of NRVT” citizen group
- It will be half completed in 4 years
- It will take 10 years to complete the entire section.
- Determined to be ADA compliant - entire way
- There will be an estimated 10 miles of secondary loop trails off the 28 mile spine trail
- 15 miles will run through Norwalk and Wilton
- Currently working on improving signage and wayfinding
- In Wilton 2 miles of the trail is under the power lines and will be coordinating with Eversource Energy
- Redding mile has been designed
- Has secured funding to complete the entire route!
- Who is funding the development?
 - Private funding/1.2 million rec trails grant / federal grant / 3 TAP grants / 3 RTGs
 - Will start fund raising shortly.

For the 20% match will be a corporate campaign - Corporate CEO wants to sponsor and wants to help fund raise and call other CEO's.

Public Q&A – None

Next Meeting – May 8, 2017 at VHB, Inc. Wethersfield

Meeting Adjourns at 11:29 am