

Minutes of Board Meeting May 11, 2015

Council Members (X In attendance)

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

X Jan Collins - CT Horse Council

X Bob Dickinson – Appalachian Mountain Club

X Bruce Donald – President of Farmington Valley Trails Council

X Tracy Gionfriddo - Eversource – Acting Secretary

X Rista Malanca – Naugatuck River Greenway

X Joe Hickey - CT Forest & Park Assoc.

X William D. O’Neill - East Coast Greenway Alliance

X Michelle Eckman – CT Audubon Society

Jason Vincent – Norwich Community Development Authority

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

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

X Steve Mitchell – Mitchell Auto Group

Call to Order 9:32 am by Bruce Donald. Visitors: Kevin Tedesco, DOT (on behalf of Kate R.)

Adoption of Minutes March 2015 meeting minutes approved. Need to review titles of people.

Revisions to Agenda: Com. Redeker meeting with B. Donald under chairman’s report.

Chairman’s Report – Bruce Donald

- Com. Redeker meeting: Merrit parkway update, not out yet. Need letter to legis. Changes at DOT regarding bike/ped. Merritt greenway is a big funding ask.
- Laurie said Com Redeker recommends letters being written to cover full five years.
- Discussion on funding going forward to cover projects outstanding.
- Burlington trail being paved and should be done on time.
- Farmington trail design is behind, but may be done in two sections.
- Willimantic bridge being worked on now.
- Push for this year: EcDevel study on FCHD trail that will include MA.
- Water fountains going in to each town, one a year, along FCHD.
- Naugatuck area looking to do EcDevel study in conjunction with UCONN and wants the information to be useful across the state.

Correspondence – Laurie Giannotti

- Nominations. To be discussed later in the meeting.

CT DOT & Bike/Ped Advisory Comm. – Kevin T.

- Road safety audits. Bike and ped improvements. Done on Rte. 82 in Norwich. Went very well. Many issues were fixed immediately. Now pushing to be in front of Com. To make it part of the overall process.
- Stamford bike/ped update. Other projects moving forward.

Legislative Report –

- Bill 1062. Rec Trails program. File Copy. Will be attached to the budget. As it relates to us specifically: will advise on funds awarded. Need to expand Council. What about members whose terms have expired. Will start with a meeting with Tom Tyler.
- SB 502: Bike bill. Do we need to do anything about this? Were asked for input too close to deadline to do anything. Bruce has asked members to be more proactive.

Old Business –

- Finalize planning for 2015 CT Greenways Day. - Laurie
 - June 5.
 - Torrington will host the event. At UCONN branch.
 - One new greenway (New Haven). Two award nominees.
 - Concerned that event should go every other year. Bruce brought forward additional nominations. Discussion. Bill brought forward additional nominations. Steve added that it will engage the community.
 - Additional nominations discussed. MUST get information to Laurie TODAY.
 - Review agenda. Welcome. DEEP representation. Activity. Directions.
- Rail with Trail Liability issues perceived by railroads:
 - Bruce still looking for someone to champion this in legis.
- Bill will continue to push forward on license plate. Not a dead issue.

New Business

- Consider applications for new Greenway Designations – Laurie
 - West River Watershed. 35 mile watershed. Approved.
- Consider applications for CT Greenway Awards – Laurie
 - See above
- Stamford Plan
 - New rep. Jennifer Simmons.
 - Plan not out yet. Some items can be done immediately in regards to connectivity.
 - Could end up being first part of the Merritt Trail.
- New Guide “Explore” for Last Green Valley. Available on line and will be an interactive guide in the future.

Public Q&A – None

Next Meeting – Eversource, July 13th, 2015

Adjournment: 10:50 AM