



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 July 10, 2017

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

Andrea Drabicki
Acting Secretary
Project Planner
Beta Group, Inc

Council Members present:

Bruce Donald, Bill O'Neill, Joe Hickey, Jamie Litner, Anna Bergeron Laurie Giannotti

Council Members on the Phone:

Lois Bruinooge, Rista Malanca, Michelle Eckman, Stacey Sterns

Council Members Absent:

Andrea Drabicki, Bob Dickinson

Members of the Public Present:

Charlie Taney - Norwalk River Valley Trail
Eric Sanderson - Northeastern Council of Governments, Planner
Jim Kulpa - VHB, Inc. for DOT's TA Program

Members of the Public on the Phone:

Laura Brown - UConn Extension Community Economic Development, CT Trail Census Project
Gene Nichols - Department of Public Health
Aaron Budris - NVCOG
Kevin Tedesco - AECOM, Transportation Planner II
Kate Rattan - SECCOG

Call to Order 9:33

Adoption of Minutes – March 13 minutes approved. May 8 minutes tabled

Chairman's Report

 – Bruce Donald reported on:

- 21 DOT named projects \$37million dollars total, taking place on the ECG that will be completed in the next 2 years.
- Plainville meeting tomorrow, project alignment should be finalized this fall.
- Federal funding after 2019 for greenways and trail projects is uncertain. The RTC has concerns. Uncertainty with change of CT Governor. Asking CGC members to be proactive in talking about the importance of trail projects.
- His meeting with Comm. Of DOT during which the Merritt Parkway Trail was discussed.
- Eastern CT many projects are underway. Bridge over Rte 6 in Bolton is under construction; HRSPT paved and waiting for 2 bridges; Charter Oak gap near Pratt-Whitney in East Hartford delays; North of Putnam will likely become part of the ECG in the future; Moosup Valley State Park Trail design is underway; RI connection to CT awareness raising but no set project date.

Correspondence – Laurie Giannotti had discussions with: the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy who will be coming to CT in August to do some mapping. Goodwin College regarding their project as well as upcoming details for CT Trails Symposium as they will be hosting. Potential applicants to DOT's Connectivity program. SCORP sub-committee working on plan goals.

CT DOT & Bike/Ped Advisory Comm. –DOT report, Anna Bergeron

Putnam Bridge Trail project.

Design schedule is currently on target

Going out for right of way obligation in November 2017

Final design plan to be ready Feb 2019

Both of the approaches are getting designed (Wethersfield and Glastonbury)

DOT is working with Goodwin College to help connect the two trails, however DOT is not designing the trail for Goodwin

DOT will be planning a public meeting Fall 2017, She will keep the group updated.

Bike-Ped draft plan will be distributed to the Steering Committee with a 30 day review period. CGC will be able to comment and distribute.

Hartford-Windsor Meadows SP connector grant awarded.

Community Connectivity grant proposals are due Aug 1, 2017. The approval process was discussed.

Legislative Report

CT RTP \$ still in Governor's proposed budget; however, there is currently no budget.

Greenways Plate is not on the legislative agenda. CGC hopeful for next year.

Kate Rattan reported on a Federal Bill HR2943.

Old Business –

- 2017 Trail Symposium, October 19 Thursday – a committee of the CGC was set up to develop an agenda: Laurie, Rista and Bruce.
- CT Recreational Trails Program – the CGC would like to see a bullet return-on-investments report from all States in the Federal RTP. LG will draft up a summary of awards with some stats for each project and what was completed.
- NVCOG Trail User Survey – Aaron Budris and Laura Brown reported. 7 trainings were conducted; 519 surveys were returned and are being compiled by a UConn intern. There are 15 total sites with Hamden recently added. UConn CES developing data visualization; hiring a part-time project coordinator. Calibration research should be completed by the end of the year with data release for counters.

New Business – 6/27 Trail Data Users meeting will be held.

DOT is holding a Landscape Architects regional conference which will include discussion of the ECG and Merritt Parkway trails.

Long Warf, New Haven has an installed, 2-way cycle track. It is a first for CT. ECG is reviewing the route for potential inclusion.

Kevin Tedesco reported that DOT is hosting NE Transportation Conference in October and it will include some bike-ped sessions.

Kate Rattan announced that there will be a public meeting for bridge 488&89 at 7pm at the Windham TH auditorium.

Public Q&A – nothing further

Next Meeting – September 11, 2017 at VHB, Inc. Wethersfield

Adjournment 11:00