

Minutes of Board Meeting July 13, 2015

Council Members (X In attendance)

X Lois Bruinooge - Executive Director, The Last Green Valley

X Jan Collins - CT Horse Council

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

Joe Hickey - CT Forest & Park Assoc.

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

Steve Mitchell – Mitchell Auto Group

Call to Order 9:30 am by Bruce Donald. Visitors: Anna Bergeron and Molly Parsons, DOT (on behalf of Kate R.) NVCOG staff Mark Neilson and Aaron Budris. Disconnected phone at 9:40 as no one had called in.

Adoption of Minutes March 2015 meeting minutes approved.

Chairman’s Report – Bruce Donald

- License plates. Meeting with DMV Commissioner. Extra money for plate is about \$35. About 1K plates out there. Handing out about 10 a year. Group disputes numbers provided by DMV. Put to later in schedule.
- FVHT: extension of FVHT is over 90% designed. Need bridge over route 6 which is being built off site.
- Plainville: Bids sent in for orientation of the trail (planning study). Scheduled to award later this month. DOT has tacked on corridor connection to Fast Track through New Britain and that piece will be bid on. Will also include northerly section of Southington.
- Cheshire sections being worked on now.
- Greenways awards. UCONN Torrington did a great job.
- Transportation program to use for funding. Discuss in legislation.

Correspondence – Laurie Giannotti

- Rep. Klarides. Prepared for vacancies on the council. Laurie has sent information to Jason and Steve.
- According to CTDEEP, Council will continue with new legislative changes. According to Roberts Rules, we are “official” according to Bruce. Discussed needs for by-laws. Quorum needed for majority votes. Call Tom if there are other questions.
- Tracy will set up Google group for all information.

CT DOT & Bike/Ped Advisory Comm. – Anna B.

- FV Trail study.

- Stamford bike/ped update. Paperwork being done to start study (RFQ).
- Bike Ped bill passed. See discussion under “Legislative Report.”

Legislative Report –

- Bill 1062. Rec Trails program. Passed.
- SB 502: Bike bill. Passed. See summary by CT Bike Ped. Can place a cyclist in areas besides far right. Enforcement issues. May be time for educational pamphlet by DOT and component for law enforcement.

Old Business –

- Rail with Trail Liability issues perceived by railroads. Bruce wants to go to Beth Bye and her office with prototype. (Will ask for both.) Need to add “railroads” to applicability.
- Five year plan: to be discussed later.

Presentation: Naugatuck Valley COG

Proposing CT Statewide Multiuse Trail User Study.

- See Attachment B provided.
- User counts using infrared for 12 month data.
- User survey via tablet for volunteers. Discussed various wants to do the survey and possibly internet.
- Identified trails where will be conducted. Want to do as many as they can but will rely on volunteers from the organizations where the trail is. Want to focus on the longer trails as they are more likely to generate “income” for economic study. Network trails? Want to make sure that other user groups are in there. Focus is not on hiking trails.
- Getting volunteers.
- Next steps: Council will review items (to be sent electronically.) They have submitted for grant. Will hear on funding on the fall. Move forward to review survey now.
- They see our roles as assisting in where it will be done and getting volunteers from the groups. Organizing and advising using a subcommittee of Bruce and Michelle. List of the trails will be sent to everyone on the Council to review.

New Business

- See SB 1062 above. Grant application closed 7/2. Have 35 applications. Request to Bond Commission for funds. Can ask for full \$7m. Expect to opt out of the Federal program (money has been diminishing for some time). As soon as money is released (earliest is end of August) then Council can start to ramp up. Want to get money out by the winter. Up to 5% of funds can be used for administration of the program. Letter will go to Tom Tyler to allocate portion of Laurie’s time. Be cognizant of timeline for funding and partial constructions (contractual).

Public Q&A – None

Next Meeting – Eversource, September 14, 2015

Adjournment: 11:07 AM