



# 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/](http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/)

## Council Meeting Minutes November 13, 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

### Council Members present:

Bruce Donald, Bob Dickinson, Joe Hickey, Jamie Lintner, Laurie Giannotti, Anna Bergeron

### Council Members on the Phone:

Stacey Stearns

### Council Members Absent:

Lois Bruinooge, Michelle Eckman, Bill O'Neill, Rista Malanca

### Members of the Public Present:

Charlie Taney – Norwalk River Valley Trail  
Jim Kulpa – VHB, Inc. for DOT's TA Program  
Kevin Tedesco – AECOM, Transportation Planner II  
Julie Dupont-Woody – Avalonia Land Conservancy

### Members of the Public on the Phone:

Eric Hammerling – Exec. Dir., CT Forest & Park Assoc., Inc.  
Laura Brown - UConn Extension Community Economic Development, CT Trail Census Project

### Call to Order 9:35

**Adoption of Minutes** – September minutes approved.

### Chairman's Report

 – Bruce Donald reported on:

- FCHT the route 6 bridge is installed; ribbon cutting is being planned.
- Discussion of election results. There has been a lot of change in towns statewide. CGC members are asked to reach out and introduce new members to the CGC and invite them to meetings.
- National ECG Board has approved FCHT sections in Southington, Hartford, Chaplin and Hampton. There was a discussion of adding signage. Kate Rattan noted that the municipalities have MOU's with the CT DOT for sign maintenance on State roads.
- Discussion of new State budget. CT Rec Trails Program (CRTP) is not funded. Eric Hammerling lead a discussion on how the CGC can work to get the funding restored. A letter will be drafted by EH, Bruce and Charlie Taney which will be sent to legislators by the CGC. Legislation of new bond authorization will be needed to revive the CRTP. Next, work with DEEP to request funds from the Bond Commission.
- A discussion of CT entering back into the National RTP. Laurie attended a conference in MA during which NE States discussed issues with the NRTP. Laurie feels other states may be willing to join CT in a conversation with FHWA to potentially revise the NRTP processes. CGC members noted that specific ideas need to be developed to present to FHWA. If CT were successful in getting back into the NRTP, there would be at least a two year delay before any funding would be made available. Bruce noted that the National RTC is working to keep the NRTP funded.

**Correspondence** – Laurie Giannotti reported on the MA Trails Conference. Read an email from Bill Oneill asking CGC to Save the Date, Sept 29 2018 at 10am for a ribbon cutting at the Bolton park-ride lot of the East Coast Greenway along the Hop River State Park Trail.

**Correspondence – continued** Bill’s email also mentioned working with RI to encourage them to complete the bridges on their Trestle Trail which connects to our Moosup Valley SPT, which is under design currently at DOT.

**CT DOT and Bike-Ped (BP) Advisory Committee** – Anna B reported that the State BP plan will be released by the end of the year. The Community Connectivity Program is dependent on state bonding which DOT believes will come in December. 40 Towns have been selected to receive the funding. DOT operating funding from the State Bond Commission remains their priority.

**Old Business –**

- 2017 Trail Symposium, October 19 Thursday – wrap up report provided by Laurie (attached). Agreed that planning should begin in Jan or Feb. We would like to include break out tracks on multi use and single track trail types. Considering partnerships with CLCC and others to reach the larger audience including land trusts and others who may have public trail systems.
- CT Recreational Trails Program – see Chairman’s report notes above.

**New Business** – nothing further

**Public Q&A** – Kate Rattan, Senior Transportation Planner, Southeastern CT Council of Governments  
860-889-2324 krattan@seccog.org, presented at the Southern New England Planning (SNEAPA) conference and wanted to share info with the CGC:

<http://www.sneapa.org/program/sessions-friday>

Cross-border Treks: Connecting the Region by Foot, Bike and Bus

Scroll down to see the presentation and notes

2018 will be held in Hartford, October 18-19

**Next Meeting** – January 8th, 2018 at VHB, Inc., Wethersfield

2018 meeting dates, held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays of the month are as follows. Other important dates are noted, please mark your calendars:

February 12

March 12

April 9

May 14

June 11; CT Greenways Day Event will be held on Friday the 1<sup>st</sup>.

July 9

August – no meeting

September 10

October 8; Trails Symposium will be held on Thursday the 25th

November 12

December – no meeting

**Adjournment** 11:30

# CT Trails Symposium

## Tell us what you think!

### Summary

50 attendees, 13 responses to this survey. 26%

1. Did you learn something of use? **Yes**
2. Did you expect something that was not delivered? **No.**
3. Should we have another symposium? **Yes**
4. What topics are you interested in?
  - Trail access for mobility issues
  - Economic benefit studies and examples.
  - Trail maintenance/use
  - Developing trail networks amongst communities
  - Funding sources
  - Success stories should continue add failure stories
  - Centralized point for information on recreation areas
  - Eversource partnerships
  - Legal issues for trail development
  - Volunteerism
  - Trail advertising
5. Is the location convenient? **Yes**
6. Is the location comfortable? **Yes**
7. Other Comments
  - Thank you!
  - Excellent program and location.
  - Great networking opportunity
  - Good food.
  - Sessions and field trip ran over time, try to keep on time.
  - I am learning about all of the “behind the scenes” work for CT Trails. All topics are welcome.
  - Offer the concurrent sessions in both sessions so we have options to attend everything.
  - I didn't consider economic impact to area in relation to trails.
  - Breakout sessions were best
  - Great to see CT is doing so well