



### **Minutes of the CT Greenways Council Meeting 11/10/14**

Council Members (X In attendance)

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

Jan Collins - CT Horse Council

X Bob Dickinson – Appalachian Mountain Club

X Bruce Donald – President of Farmington Valley Heritage Trails Council

X Tracy Gionfriddo - Northeast Utilities – acting Secretary

David Gumbart – Town of Killingworth; The Nature Conservancy; CT Forest & Park Assoc.

X Joe Hickey - CT Forest & Park Assoc.

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

X (phone) Lisa Fernandez – Farmington River

Jason Vincent – Norwich Community Development Authority

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

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

Steve Mitchell – Mitchell Auto Group

Visitors: Kevin Tedesco, DOT

**Call to Order** at 9:34am by Bruce Donald

#### **Acceptance or Revisions to Agenda**

- Tarrifville connection from Simsbury to Hartford
- Council taking a stand for rail with trail liabilities
- Rails to trails for Merit Parkway
- Discussion of other items from notes read by Bruce
- Kate discussed cross over near Route 2. Encroachment permit rejected. Comes down to cost. Have to determine agency that will take over. Bruce recommends letter requesting safe egress that does not exist now.

#### **Adoption of Minutes – NA**

- Notes, see above

#### **Chairman’s Report – Bruce Donald**

- East Coast Greenway, Merit Parkway trails. Information meetings were “rocky.” Negative comments stemming from many things, notably cost. Greenways Council sent letter. Response from DOT is that they want to package this all as one thing. This is seen as a departure for DOT. What is the groups’ response? Perhaps there is a misunderstanding of the process. Ask DOT to reflect/reconsider. Alternate routes?

Also, we have not seen the full plan. Bill has offered taking on a round table with interested parties. Discussion of whole to invite to the meeting.

- East Coast Greenway meeting – CT update.
- Farmington Canal Heritage trail. See handout for updates for remaining sections.
- Bruce needs to work on legislation regarding liability (and license plates).
- Conversations on where to put Hartford Spur trail through Tariffville. Which one to pick has not been decided on. Bloomfield is moving on. Discussion of options.
- Phase 4 in New Haven from Hillhouse Ave to Longwarf. Held up by property owners. Delay has been 18 months so far. Discussion of political involvement and possible legal action. Use and timing of funding.
- Bolton Notch and Eastern trails: considering moving trails and other ideas to give safe access to trail. Especially for bikes.

#### **Correspondence – Laurie Giannotti**

- Naugatuck River Committee would like a seat at the council
- Call from Dave Gumbart, he is resigning. That means we will have two vacancies.
- Bruce said to go ahead and move Naugatuck River Committee on to the committee.

#### **CT DOT & Bike/Ped Advisory Comm. – Kate Rattan**

New bike racks on trains are being installed. Still only on non-peak  
Policy for Complete Streets has been passed.

#### **Legislative Report - All tabled**

#### **Old Business –**

- Who can we get to champion issues going forward
  - Greenways funds
  - Liability issues brought up by railroads
  - Let's talk to our legislative contacts.
- Rec trails update – funding has not been re-established

#### **New Business tabled**

**Next Meeting – TBD**

**Adjournment at 11:10 am**