

Notes of Discussions January 11, 2016

Council Members (X In attendance)

- X Lois Bruinooge - Executive Director, The Last Green Valley (on phone)
- 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 (on phone)
- X 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
- X Steve Mitchell – Mitchell Auto Group (member not approved)

Call to Order 9:37 am by Bruce Donald. Visitors: Kevin Tedesco, DOT (on behalf of Kate R.). Michael Sullivan, WCCOG. Mark Nielson and Laura Brown (Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments).

Adoption of Minutes November 2015 meeting minutes. As submitted.

Chairman’s Report – Bruce Donald

- A lot going on
- Met with Susan Whalen re: money that was supposed to be put forward for rec trails. She is of the opinion that it is going to happen. Other folks are not so sure. Fall 2015 other monies went to other trails through DOT. Bruce sent a letter to the Governor asking him to take a look at this. Others have sent in letters to the same effect.
- FVTC monies of \$5m are to be dispersed. Also study for last gap in Plainville.
- Bruce is going to ask Beth Bye to take on municipal liability code for Rails to Trails. Laurie also recommended taking it up with Riverfront Recapture. She will provide contacts.
- Rail use possibly in Southington (FVT). Will it cause interruption in trail use? Possibly. Looking at as part of the study.
- Gap in Cheshire (FVT) is almost done. Roped off but being used. Will be completed in spring. Other areas being worked on soon. Including area over swamp, which will be built similarly to Glastonbury.
- Bonding for trails in Eastern area. (Discussed by Laurie.) Funds of \$1M for design of Moosup and Hop River Trail repair and bridge work. Property issue with landowner in Lebanon has been resolved. Also combined efforts with Airline Trails and Willimantic area water trails.
- VHB has replaced A. Carrier. Contractual consultants to DOT for multiuse trails.

Correspondence – Laurie Giannotti

- Letters of support for funding

- Have not gotten letters back for Council appointments.

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

- Project items as above
- Internally working out staff for design of Putnum bridge connection. Includes permitting issues and costs...mostly on Glastonbury side.
- US bike route system. Route 7, MA, VT, CT, NY: three towns away from agreement.
- CT Bike Ped Plan update. Getting underway and website is updated. Consultants on boards. State and local routes for logically connected network through CT. Make sure to get comments and concerns in.
- Community Connectivity program under way. RSA's for towns applying. Program is focused on roads.
- Kate has left department and taken job with SECOG. Actively trying to replace the position without a lot of luck (budget cuts and freeze).

Legislative Report –

Old Business –

- NVCOG Trail User Survey update. Reduced to one page and 10 or 11 questions. Long survey was put on line (not well responded to so it was pulled). Did 5 trail sections and 386 survey responses. Working with UCONN for analysis. Will be providing overview or aggregate data, then will work on town specific data. Use data to build economic model. FVT laser counter data will be available soon. Bruce would like to see something that can be done statewide and answer what is statistically valid database to make these numbers economically viable. Want uniform numbers in the state. Tourism data is being collected at sample of areas, and may include greenways information. Raleigh/Durham Tobacco Trail Study is impressive and will be sent out to group. Impact analysis will be drafted end of April and final report will be available by the end of June. Will work towards getting something together for towns that want to get started right away.
- Rail with Trail Liability issues perceived by railroads – Bruce will be talking with Sen. Beth Bye in the coming weeks (See above)
- Greenways license plate. Council is not actively pursuing at this time beyond Bill O'Neil's efforts. If we were to get someone to push legislation we could spend that money on marketing on the plates and get more money coming in.
- E-bikes, etc. coming up again as legislation. Increased popularity. Because it is "Assisted" it can fall under ADA, and thus creates issue legally. FVT said municipalities should make sure speed limits on trails (12mph) is realized. Municipalities can add it to their code if they need/want to.

New Business –

- CT Designated Greenways Nominations RFP to be sent out February 1st by CTDEEP.
- April designation of Hop and airline trail connection. Can also be possible for Trails Conference.
- CT Greenways Day – Friday, June 3rd. Suggestions for Eastern CT? Thompson committee... possible connection and site. Also suggestion of Goodwin State Forrest as there are facilities if there is rain.
- CT Trails Conference – Thursday, October 20th. Begin planning. Council is hosting. Need agenda and determine who we are tailoring it towards. NVCOG can present their study. Everyone needs to think about what they want to see and get it to Bruce and he will get it out. Subcommittee

Rista, Laurie and Michele with Bruce. Also need name. Will become annual conference. Will be at CFPA Rockfall.

- Designation of grants and funds will need to be determined end of Feb. May need to have emergency meeting/special meeting to be able to have quorum and vote.
- June 28th Bike from New Haven to Simsbury for East Coast Greenway.

Public Q&A – None

Next Meeting – Eversource, March 14, 2016

Adjournment: 11:18 AM