

Notes of Discussions March 14, 2016

Council Members (X In attendance)

- 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
- Rista Malanca – Naugatuck River Greenway (on phone)
- X Joe Hickey - CT Forest & Park Assoc.
 - William D. O’Neill - East Coast Greenway Alliance
- 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 (member not approved)

Call to Order 9:41 am by Bruce Donald. Visitors: Kevin Tedesco, DOT (on behalf of Kate R.).

Adoption of Minutes January 2016 meeting minutes. As submitted.

Chairman’s Report – Bruce Donald

- Farmington Heritage Trail. Second phase going forward. Farmington now clearing trees.
- New Haven project (1.7 miles to Long Warf) moving forward. Still dealing with land owners.
- Thompson, state park (Airline): Resurfacing almost completed. Bridge needs to be put in.
- NVCOG starting counter program. FVTC is going to go for Rec Trails grant for whole of FVT corridor (62 miles). Need 8 counters. Will then figure out how to get the information together.

Correspondence – Laurie Giannotti

- Regarding requests for information for grant proposals. Already sent out.

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

- 126 applications for community COG activity (road safety audits mostly, several had to do with trails) in 82 towns.
- Putnam Bridge project moving forward. Internal at DOT at this point.

Legislative Report –

- Bill regarding railway liability legislation – being reviewed.
- Pedestrian crossing – language difficulties regarding fines. Bruce will follow up regarding letter from Council.
- Public lands trade bill.

Old Business –

- CT Recreational Trails Program – status of grant awards.
 - Received information requested
 - Still discussing Guilford and Simsbury projects with DOT. Recommend conditional approval. Funds will be available for other use if DOT approves funding from DOT.
 - Goodwin College will increase width. Still in discussions with DEEP. Recommend conditional approval.
 - Conditional approval email/letter will be sent out by Laurie
 - Requesting \$5m for next round.
- CT Greenways Day – Friday, June 3rd. Begin planning. Goodwin Conservation Center in Hampton pending confirmation. Laurie will follow up.
- NVCOG Trail User Survey – See above. Series of meetings on FVT area to be held. Focus meetings for people from 13 towns to see what can be “gleaned” from these reports.
- Rail with Trail Liability issues perceived by railroads – see above for legislation
- CT Trails Conference – Thursday, October 20th. Begin planning. Will be held at CFPA. Need to put agenda together. Request for presentations. Recommended speakers. Who we want to invite.

New Business –

- April kickoff meeting for those getting grants. Review requirements, press, etc. April 7th at CTDEEP 9 to 11.

Public Q&A – None

Next Meeting – Eversource, May 9, 2016

Adjournment: 11:18 AM