

CONNECTICUT



GREENWAYS

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
Vice Chairman

Gwen Marrion
Bolton Trails Committee

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 Meeting Minutes November 12, 2019

9:30 AM to 10:30AM,

VHB, Inc. offices, 100 Great Meadow Road Suite 200, in Wethersfield, CT.

Council Members present:

Bruce Donald, Bob Dickinson Michelle Eckman,, Joe Hickey, Laurie Giannotti, Anna Bergeron

Council Members on the Phone:

Jamie Lintner

Stacey Stearns

Members of the Public Present:

Paula Burton – WCOG; CT NEMBA

Jim Kulpa – VHB for DOT

Charles Tracy – UConn CES

Emily Wilson – UConn CES

Laura Brown – UConn CES

Members of the Public on the Phone:

Eric Hammerling – CFPA

Clare Cane - CFPA

Call to Order 9:37

Secretary – Laurie Giannotti

Acceptance or Revisions to Agenda – accepted.

Adoption of Minutes – October minutes approved. Joe Hickey/ Michelle Eckman

Chairman's Report – Concerns that underway projects may experience a funding gap.

Attended Bike-Walk CT's annual meeting which was sold out! Our own Bill O'Neill received a well-deserved "People's Choice" award.

Requested a meeting with CFPA and other trail users to discuss lobbying strategies for 2020 short legislative session.

Bruce is meeting with Tom Maziarz next week.

Discussion of a new group called "CT Outdoor Recreation Alliance" see <https://www.ctoutdoors.org/>

Folks are encouraged to sign up on the website to be involved in monthly meetings. The group will be working with CFPA on lobbying strategies and plans to meet with the Governor.

Legislative Report – Eric Hammerling shared that the CRTTP funding at \$3 million is still alive.

However, there is a complication in that the legislature may not meet until December-February to authorize the bond legislation. He encourages CGC to keep their legislators informed of the importance of the funding.

CT DOT – Anna reported DOT continues to focus on tolling. All are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the [Governors Transportation Plan 2030](#). All are concerned that there are apparently no bike-ped elements.

Old Business –

Trails Symposium – debrief there were many positive comments. A larger venue is necessary for next year. Laura Brown offered to summarize participant feed-back; difficulties include registration was taken by group not individuals. Charlie Tracy noted the interest in development of a CT Trail Finder (CTF). He attended the MA trail conference as did others from UConn CES, there is interest in combining efforts in some way going forward. Bruce envisions 5 years of secure funding can bring best results for CTF. Clare Cane suggested we look at demographics of attendees in order to focus outreach in the future. Paula Burton suggested increasing diversity of attendees.

New Business –

Potential Turned back CRTP funds – Laurie Giannotti reviewed existing contracts for CRTP projects that may be coming in under-budget or expiring with turned-back funds. There is a potential for between \$150-312,000.00 becoming available early 2020 for re-distribution to previously approved, but underfunded (due to insufficient funds last grant round 2018-19) projects. On behalf of the CGC, Laurie will ask that group of projects to identify their status and potential need for additional funding (not provided initially). The CGC will discuss potential re-distribution of funds at their January 2020 meeting.

Charlie Tracy – CT Trail Census update. Charlie provided a project update and plans for future work. See attached.

Next Meeting – Monday January 13, 2020 at VHB.

Adjournment 11:24 AM

2020 meeting dates are:

Monday (same time) meeting dates at VHB in Wethersfield

January 13	February 10
March 9	April 13
May 11	June 8
July 13	August – no meeting
September 14	October 12
November 9	December – no meeting

Potential 2020Event Dates:

CT Greenways Day – Friday, June 5, 2020

CT Trails Symposium - Thursday, October 22

An appointed, volunteer board dedicated to planning and implementing greenways in Connecticut

Connecticut Greenways Council

Per CGS Sec. 23-102. **The duties of the council shall be:**

1. To **advise and assist** in the coordination of state agencies, municipalities, regional planning organizations and private citizens in voluntarily planning and **implementing a system of greenways**;
2. To operate a **greenways help center** to advise state agencies, municipalities, regional planning organizations and private citizens in the technical aspects of planning, designing and implementing greenways, including advice on securing state, federal and nongovernmental grants;
3. To **establish criteria for designation of greenways**;
4. To maintain an **inventory of greenways** in the state which shall include the location of greenways transportation projects which have received grants under sections 23-101, 32-6a, 32-9qq and 32-328;
5. To **advise the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development** on the distribution of grants for greenways transportation projects pursuant to sections 32-6a, 32- 9qq and 32-328; and
6. To **advise the Commissioner of Environmental Protection** on the distribution of grants pursuant to section 23-101.