

Connecticut Greenways Council
Minutes of Meeting
July 13, 2020
Via teleconference due to coronavirus

A regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Monday, July 13, 2020 via teleconference. Participating were chairman Bruce Donald, Bob Dickinson, Charlie Tracy, Paula Burton, Laurie Gianotti, Bill O'Neill, Gene Nichols, Lance Hansen, Stacey Stearns, Richard Lutz, Cathy Hagadorn, Jennifer Carrier, Anna Bergeron, Kim Bradley, Kate Rattan, Bill Boles and Gwen Marrison.

1. Call to Order, Welcome: Bruce called the meeting to order at 9:33.

2. Adoption of minutes of June 8, 2020 meeting: Bruce moved, seconded by Bill, to approve and the motion passed unanimously with no changes.

3. Chairman's Report

- Bond Commission: might meet July 21. Laurie met with Tom Tyler and Brian Wilson to discuss bond funding priorities and the national rec trail program. She learned that the order in which items appear on the Bond Commission agenda does not matter, and we should express support to our legislators.
- Project: Air Line Crossing Project in Pomfret going well, resurfacing needed on sections of other trails, New Haven Phase 4 going to re-bid soon, Southington north to Plainville border going to bid at end of the month, Bruce will contact DOT trail designers re Phase 1 Plainville

4. CT DOT and Bike/Ped Advisory Committee: Anna reported that DOT is working with towns on Community Connectivity projects. DOT is doing some drone flights to show before and after scenes. DOT wants to do another round of funding for this program.

5. Old Business

- Laurie is encouraged that the DEEP Fiscal Division is supportive of funding for the RTP
- Federal Rec Trails: CT had opted out of this program due to the amount of work compared to the relatively few dollars available. Laurie talked to others about the DEEP's capacity to handle the administrative work load if CT were to rejoin. There is a concern about filling Laurie's position when she retires because there are position caps in the parks division. Gwen asked why CT would want to get back into the federal program if it sounds like administering it will be worse than before. The answer is that the federal funds are an option to state bond funding which is not assured. Laurie also spoke with a director in DEEP about other options for funding including whether the budget can include a line item for trail funding. If new funds come into the DEEP they can be dedicated to a specific project but if a line item is added it's likely funding will be taken away from another DEEP project so that is not helpful.
- US 1-A Corridor update: this will be a more rural route than the East Coast Greenway and will be safe, better for families and will give more access to local businesses. Charlie and others are trying to get more information on the location. Kate and Ryan Kent from the Bike/Ped Advisory Board said DOT wants the councils of governments to take more of a leadership role in the project.

- 2020 Awards and CT Greenways Celebration: Laurie said this will be held on Thursday October 1 from 5:00-7:00 at Charter Oak Park in Manchester. Bill said that Bike Walk Bolton and the Rotary Club will sponsor it and provide refreshments and signs. Laurie said she is trying to gain access to the greenways license plate fund so that she can buy awards. She will email members so we can consider nominees and trails that are ready to be designated Greenways.
- New Haven to Providence Guide ECGA: Bruce is working on this under a \$50K grant. It will have information on trails, historic houses and other cultural items.
- Bolton Tunnel Lighting: Gwen reported on a Zoom meeting on July 6 with representatives from the Town of Bolton, Eversource, DEEP, DOT, Bike Walk Bolton and others. All parties seem to support putting lighting in the tunnel but the unanswered questions are who will pay for the installation, maintenance and lighting bills.
- CT Trail Finder: Charlie reported that he is planning a webinar on July 22. He was interviewed on CT public radio about trail use. Commissioner Dykes said trails are “very important”. A pod cast called “On the Trail” is being created as well as a mini series called “Walk with Me” which interviews people of color about their perspectives on using trails. June data will be out soon. There were 480 responses (50% return rate) to an on line trail user survey. Drone videos are starting to be used successfully.
- License plate fund: Laurie is still trying to find who at DEEP has authority to release the funds.

6. New Business:

- Paula and Kim mentioned a possible guided ride at Case Mountain to tie in with the Greenway Awards on Oct. 1
- Bill Boles – CT NEMBA will send an announcement about the awards ceremony
- Kim Bradley: expressed opinion that data collection similar to what is being done with multi use trails would be helpful if collected in places such as Bluff Point State Park. Feels letters should be written to Tom Tyler with cc to Commissioner Dykes in support of Laurie’s position.

7. Public Comment - None

8. Next meeting: Monday, September 14, 2020

9. Adjournment: 11:03

Submitted by

Gwen Marrion