

Connecticut Greenways Council
Minutes of Meeting
February 9, 2021
9:00 a.m.
Via teleconference due to coronavirus

A regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Tuesday February 9, 2021 via teleconference. Participating were chairman Bruce Donald, Laurie Giannotti, Stacey Stearns, Kate Rattan, Paula Burton, Aaron Budris, Bill Champagne, Kim Bradley, Bob Dickinson, Cathy Hagadorn, Bill Boles, Claire Cain, Brian Wilson, Jay Annis, Jennifer Carrier, Michael Cipriano, Lois Bruinooge, Gene Nichols, Rista Malanca, Gillian Carroll, Tim Malone, Delia Fay, Richard Lutz and Gwen Marrison.

Call to Order, Welcome: Bruce called the meeting to order at 9:01.

January 12, 2021 Minutes: Bob D moved to approve, seconded by Rista and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report and Legislative Updates

- H.B. 5349 (bike/ped safety and greenways license plate restoration): Bruce testified in writing and orally. Only opposition he heard was from police union re difficulty enforcing wider parking bans near pedestrian cross walks and civil rights use of cameras for enforcement.
- Tariffville 1: going to bid
- Southington: should go to bid this year
- Plainville: design more than 35% done. DOT working on getting land on Town Line Road for parking
- Putnam: bridge decking and tunnel covering being worked on. Possibly finished Spring 2021.

CT DOT and Bike/Ped Advisory Committee: No report.

Correspondence: Laurie reported that she received a letter from Manchester Town General Manager Scott Shanley agreeing to accept the greenway designation. The application meets the Council's criteria and the greenway is heavily used. Motion by Gwen to designate that section of the Charter Oak Greenway as a state greenway. Seconded by Stacey. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- CT Trail Finder/Census Update: Kim reported that data has been downloaded to the interactive portal on the website. Annual reports will be issued mid-March. A separate analysis re Covid effects on trail use will be done. Trail Finder going well. New logo, working with GIS network and UConn CLEAR toward a statewide GIS trail layer. Bruce met with NJ DOT, DEM and others re starting a NJ Trail census – impetus came from CT Trail Census
- Greenways License plate fund: Sen. Steve Cassano recently raised a bill that includes re-directing these funds to DEEP. Bruce wrote a letter late fall 2020 to Tom Tyler about releasing the \$9,000 currently held by DEEP. Laurie said Tom Tyler read it and his response is being reviewed by DEEP Fiscal Division before being sent to Bruce. Bruce asked if there is anyone with graphic arts talents who would like to update the old brochure.
- CT Rec Trails Funding: Laurie: still moving toward opting back into the federal program in September. Waiting for DEEP Fiscal Division regarding an assessment of how the funds will

be managed by DOT. DOT and DEEP will meet this week. Council's subcommittee on alternative sources of funding met and will meet monthly.

- CGC Awards: nominations due Feb. 28. Volunteers for serving on the Awards Committee are Gwen, Stacey, Rista and Laurie.
- Trails Symposium 2021: discussion on whether to hold it. Bruce feels we should. Current cap on indoor events is 25. Paula feels it is too early to decide. Discussed whether we could have a virtual event or outside. Bill Boles said the MA Rec Trails Advisory Board cancelled their trail symposium. Rista suggested asking college locations if can use separate rooms. Stacey said UConn is not allowing any indoor events. They are following the State guidelines. UConn can support online events. Rich said feels anything in 2021 should be virtual. Clare said she has attended good online trail workshops. Bob feels it would be good to make it a hybrid event. No decision on this.
- Bolton Tunnel Lighting: Laurie reported that this is moving forward. DEEP is doing the paperwork to hire a consultant for the design work. Then there will be more conversations with DOT re shared labor and costs. She said, "There will be light in the tunnel".
- Review of Council mission, roles and responsibilities: Bruce said the five-year plan needs to be reviewed. The subcommittee on finding alternative funding should be part of the review. Anyone who wants to work on the update should contact Bruce.

New Business

Bob noted that some towns plow their trails and some don't. The bridge across from Route 190 is a good example of a plowed trail. He thinks this is good policy. Bruce said most towns don't and the ones most likely to be plowed are in urban settings which is good for urban movement. Riverfront Recapture plows theirs, East Hartford does not. Trails require different equipment from road plowing. Kim mentioned a public/private partnership in Northampton, MA where a private citizen grooms trails. Trail Census data shows that people want to use trails in the winter. Paula mentioned there is an economic development opportunity re trails if they are plowed, i.e. in Norfolk (brewery).

Gwen mentioned a Jan. 22 Hartford Courant article that says that Windsor "received a \$500K grant from the state DOT" for construction of 850 feet of trail that will connect Windsor River Walk and the Riverfront Recapture trail in Hartford. Gwen asked if this means DOT has its own source of funding for trails. Bruce said no, that item was approved by the Bond Commission in December, 2020.

Bob said there are nice side trails along Day Hill Road in Windsor. P&Z Commissions in some town require trails in new subdivisions.

Public Comment: None

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 9:00

Adjournment: 10:14

Submitted by


Gwen Marrison