

Connecticut Greenways Council
Minutes of Meeting
January 12, 2021
9:00 a.m.
Via teleconference due to coronavirus

A regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Tuesday January 12, 2021 via teleconference. Participating were chairman Bruce Donald, Laurie Gianotti, Bill O'Neill, Stacey Stearns, Anna Bergeron, Kate Rattan, Paula Burton, Aaron Budris, Bill Champagne, Kim Bradley, Bob Dickinson, Jim Kulpa, Cathy Hagadorn, Bill Boles, Claire Cain, Jim Wyskiewicz, Laura Brown, Jamie Lintner, Brian Wilson, Judith Miller and Gwen Marrion.

Call to Order, Welcome: Bruce called the meeting to order at 9:03.

November 9, 2020 Minutes: The minutes were adopted by consensus.

Chairman's Report and Legislative Updates

- New Haven Phase 4: second bid also too high
- Southington: delayed again
- Plainville: design more than 30% done
- Hartford Riverwalk: should start soon and possibly finished late 2022-early 2023. Special bonding for bridge abutments for river crossing. Good improvement for north of Hartford and possible connection with Keney Park and toward Bloomfield
- Charter Oak Greenway near Pratt & Whitney: effort to close gap in progress
- Jim Kulpa reported:
 - Ansonia Riverwalk Phases 3 and 4: possible spring 2021 start
 - East Haven: survey done of the Shoreline Greenway Trail and preliminary design submission being worked on
 - New London: Williams Street application in progress
- Aaron reported:
 - Waterbury south end: out to bid, possible spring 2021 start

CT DOT and Bike/Ped Advisory Committee: Anna reported that the Community Connectivity projects were chosen. She will look at Lets Go CT to see what was funded. Possible legislation regarding grants for e-bike rebates being considered.

Correspondence: Laurie reported that she is waiting for a letter from Manchester Town General Manager Scott Shanley agreeing to accept greenway designation. The Town of Branford is considering applying for a greenway designation.

Old Business

- Vote on CG Awards guidelines and procedure: Gwen noted that if the Council is to stay on the recommended schedule, nominations are due February 28. It was discussed that since last year's ceremony was later in the year than usual, it is appropriate to accept nominations this year until the end of March to be acted on by the Council at its April meeting. Bill O'Neill moved, Stacey seconded to accept the award guidelines dated November 2, 2020 including the nomination form. The motion passed unanimously.

- CT Trail Finder/Census Update: Kim reported that fourth quarter 2020 information is in and includes the new QR reporting of which there were about 1,400 responses. Working with MA and NJ on developing the website.
- CT Rec Trails Funding: Did not get on last Bond Commission meeting agenda
- Greenways License plate fund: Bill and Bruce spoke with state officials. Sen. Steve Cassano told Bill he will support bill to redirect revenue from license plates 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 Bruce should receive a response soon. Stacey requested that if the Council restarts its small grants program that there be a question on the application concerning diversity and inclusion.
- Bolton Tunnel Lighting: Laurie reported that this is moving forward. DEEP is working on a project request. UConn students who did an analysis might be utilized. Parties seem to agree that DOT owns the tunnel structure and DEEP owns the trail itself which makes the lighting issue complicated because where lights are placed determines who owns them. Maintenance and fees still under discussion. Bill noted that there is a tunnel on the Hop River State Park Trail in Columbia with lighting.

New Business:

- Trails Symposium 2021: discussion on whether to hold it. NJ is holding a bike/ped summit in October, the ECG is doing a two-day ride from New York to Philadelphia and Bill Boles said the MA Rec Trails Advisory Board is meeting today to discuss the date of their trail symposium. No decision on this.
- Review of Council mission, roles and responsibilities: Bruce listed some issues that need to be addressed: 1) Should the Rec Trails Funding mechanism continue through the State or should it go back under the federal program? 2) Other sources of funding should be pursued. The Council has a subcommittee that will meet to discuss this. 3) Laurie's resignation: we don't know if her position will be replaced. Bruce will send an email to the Council to ask if we want to discuss strategies regarding future internal issues at DOT and DEEP because in absence of the Rec Trails Program, funding will have to come from DOT.
 - Laurie said the Council needs to review our statutory responsibilities, the purpose of the Council and make sure we are on track. She will send around the Five Year Plan.
 - Laurie said DEEP is trying to opt back into the federal grant program. We need to explore new ideas, be creative, remain hopeful and "run wild".
 - Bruce said he raised \$90,000 on his own last year so there is money out there. The question is who will follow up on these types of leads.
 - Bill O. suggests the Council take on more of a promotion role, such as writing tourism articles and sponsoring events and noted a commercial tour company is leading a cycling tour through CT this year.
 - Bruce reported that the New Haven to Providence historic and culture guide he is working on is about 80% complete.
 - Bruce asked if there are any possible open seats on the Council. If so the individuals should let Bruce know.

Public Comment: None

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

Adjournment: 10:08

Submitted by
Gwen Marrison