

CONNECTICUT



GREENWAYS

Connecticut Greenways Council

c/o CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106

(860) 424-3578

www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/

Council Meeting Minutes March 12, 2018

9:30 AM to 10:30AM,

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

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

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 Members present:

Bob Dickinson, Joe Hickey, Jamie Lintner, Rista Malanca, Stacey Stearns, Bill O'Neill, Laurie Giannotti

Council Members on the Phone:

Lois Bruinooge

Council Members Absent:

Bruce Donald, Michelle Eckman, Anna Bergeron

Members of the Public Present:

Jim Kulpa – VHB, Inc. for DOT's TA Program

Kevin Tedesco – AECOM, Transportation Planner II

Richard Lutz – Resident of Rocky Hill

Members of the Public on the Phone:

Kate Rattan – SECCOG.

Julie Dupont-Woody – Avalonia Land Conservancy

Bill Boles – NEMBA Staff

Philip Keyes – NEMBA Exec. Director

Kim Bradley SECT chapter, NEMBA

Call to Order 9:30

Acceptance or Revisions to Agenda – accepted with no revisions

Adoption of Minutes – February minutes approved. Joe Hickey/Bob Dickinson

Chairman's Report – No report

Legislative Report –

- SB 424 which would reauthorize the CT Recreational Trails Grants Program was discussed. There will be a public hearing on Friday 3/16, the CGC was encouraged to submit testimony in support of this bill and attend the hearing if possible.
- HB 5485 An act concerning electric bicycles and urban traffic safety. NEMBA representatives on the phone explained that this bill, though largely beneficial to bicycles on roads, would allow "...electric bicycle may be ridden where bicycles are permitted to travel" which could result in ebikes riding on any trails. It was noted that State Parks currently considers an ebike a motorized use which would be prohibited from most state park multi-use trails. It is uncertain whether this legislation would supersede current State Parks policy. The CGC was encouraged to submit testimony in opposition to this raised bill. Rista provided a link to an American Trails webinar on ebikes. There was much discussion on classes of ebikes. There was a **motion** made by Joe Hickey and after discussion, second by Bob Dickinson to: **Support existing State Park policy on multi-use trails. The motion passed.**

CT DOT and Bike-Ped (BP) Advisory Committee – Jim Kulpa noted that the Bloomfield Greenway project will be advertised soon.

Old Business –

- CT Recreational Trails Program – covered under legislative report.
- Planning Greenways Day June 1. Laurie solicited input from the CGC via email following the meeting. Suggestions for holding this event in North Eastern- Eastern CT were received. America is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act as well as the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. We have all of these in Eastern CT. Also, we have an application from the Avalonia Land Trust for a new designation that will likely be made. Julie-Duponte Woody representing the Avalonia Land Trust and the Town of Ledyard's Conservation Commission gave a brief presentation to request hosting the event at the Ledyard Historical Nathan Lester House. There was some discussion and a **motion** by Joe Hickey **to hold the 2018 event at the NLH in Ledyard**, Jamie and Lois second and all approved. **The motion passed**. Laurie will email CGC past award list so we can begin compiling nominations for this event and vote at the April meeting.
- Planning Trail Symposium October 25th. Laurie will solicit input from the CGC via email
- Greenways License plate – Bill O'Neill reported that he is working with Rep. Guerra and others in the next couple of weeks. He requested more names of potential legislators who the CGC members believe would be supportive to be sent to him.
- Recruitment of Secretary and Vice-Chair update – Rista volunteered and was accepted by the Chairman as Vice-Chair. A suggestion was made to designate a secretary at each meeting and keep the position rotating. This will be tried at the April meeting.

New Business –

- To address holiday conflicts with future meeting dates: October 8 meeting date is revised to the 9th and November 12 to the 13th.

Public Q&A – nothing further

Next Meeting – Tuesday April 9, 2018 at VHB, Inc., Wethersfield

2018 remaining meeting dates, held on the 2nd Mondays of the month are as follows. Other important dates are noted, please mark your calendars:

May 14

June 11; CT Greenways Day Event will be held on Friday the 1st.

July 9

August – no meeting

September 10

October 9; Trails Symposium will be held on Thursday the 25th

November 13

December – no meeting

Adjournment 10:36