

CONNECTICUT



GREENWAYS

Connecticut Greenways Council

c/o CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106

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www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/

Council Meeting Minutes May 14, 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: Joe Hickey, Bill O'Neill Bruce Donald, Marlon Pena, DOT Transportation Planner for Anna Bergeron, Laurie Giannotti

Council Members on the Phone: Rista Malanca, Lois Bruinooge, Michelle Eckman

Council Members Absent: Bob Dickinson, Jamie Lintner, Stacey Stearns

Members of the Public Present: Charlie Taney – NRVT, Jim Kulpa – VHB, Inc.

Members of the Public on the Phone: Julie Dupont-Woody – Avalonia Land Conservancy, Kim Bradley SECT chapter, NEMB; Bill Boles –NEMBA Staff.

Call to Order 9:30

Designation of Secretary for this meeting – no volunteers so Laurie G agreed.

Acceptance or Revisions to Agenda – accepted with no revisions

Adoption of Minutes – April minutes approved. Joe Hickey/Bill O'Neill.

Chairman's Report – All are encouraged to attend a ribbon cutting for the FHCT bridge over route 6 in Avon/Collinsville. Event is at 10:30 at the bridge site. Of note, this bridge was built with 100% state funds from DOT's LOCIP program.

May 23 in Hartford CT Committee of the ECG Annual Meeting. Bruce will be sending out invitations.

TA Program has been restored but we are unsure of the dollar amounts. Funds are not yet bonded. DOT believes that all taken off of the list will be restored. More to follow.

SB 424 was authorized restoring the CT Rec Trails Program with 3 million dollars. The funds must still be appropriated by the ST. Bond Commission. Bruce and Eric will be drafting up a letter for folks to use for communications with their legislators in the coming weeks. NRVT representative Charlie Taney requested a deadline by which communication would be most effective be included.

Merritt Parkway study question was raised by Bill O. Bruce will followup on status with Tom Maziarz at DOT.

“**BUILD**” is the latest authorization of the federal TIGER 2018 program. Proposals are due June 5 – July 19. Focus on intermodal projects. 20% grant match is required. Proposals between \$5million and \$25million will be considered, \$1million for rural areas. Webinars are being offered. Letters of support are critical. Bruce will be working with ECG, CRCOG and etc.. to develop a Plainville section proposal. Others are encouraged.

Subst House Bill No. 5313 “An Act Revising Motor Vehicle Statutes” passed. This bill includes language on ebikes and is being researched for clarification by ECG and State Parks. NEMBA's Bill Boles was at the hearing and notes that ebikes are now not permitted on earthen trails and any trail which is otherwise posted.

Correspondence – Please try to attend the following events associated with projects funded by CRTP or DOT:

June 2nd , 10am Portland extension of the Air Line State Park Trail.

June 2nd , 10 am Wallingford, Fresh Meadows at Cheshire Road ribbon cutting for this new ADA trail.

June 3rd , 10 am East Windsor, Melrose Street Bridge restoration ribbon cutting.

Many of these events are listed in [CT Trails Day brochure](#) or online or contact Laurie if you have questions.

September 29, at Bolton Commuter Lot, ribbon cutting for the Tri-Town Loop: Manchester-Vernon-Bolton.

CT DOT and Bike-Ped (BP) Advisory Committee – The DOT now has a new budget but details are not yet clear (see Chairman’s report above). Bike Month partnership with REI has been established. [Classes](#) are set up for the general public. [Bike-to-Work day](#) is this Friday. Commissioner Reddeker will speak and participate at the Old State House. [Lime Bike](#) program will be set up in Hartford this year possibly June. Bruce will follow-up.

DOT has provided DEEP with STRAVA bike-ped data. DEEP Forestry and State Parks will be using the data for planning purposes. One example is in Salmon River State Forest where these data show most use on unauthorized trails. DEEP will be working with NEMBA, CFPA and others to identify where it makes sense to convert unauthorized trails to authorized trails which will depend on the likelihood of sustainability.

SC NEMBA has been working with DEEP already and has been doing outreach on appropriate trail use. This club has had good feedback from DEEP’s pilot blazing project in Hurd State Park.

Legislative Report – in addition to what was discussed in the Chairman’s report above, from CFPA’s [website](#): “...on the last night of the 2018 Legislative session (May 9th), SJ 35 passed the House by a 118 – 32 margin which places the issue of protecting public lands in the state constitution on the November ballot. But please remember that our work together is not done ... this measure now needs to actually PASS on the statewide ballot in November.”

Old Business –

- [CT Recreational Trails Program](#) – covered under chairmen’s report.
- [Greenways Day Friday, June 1](#) – The nominations for the 2018 new designated greenways were all approved with a motion by Bill O and second by Joe H. Members of the CGC received detailed information on each of the new designees from Laurie for consideration prior to this meeting. New designated greenways to be recognized at the event are: Avalonia LT/Town of Ledyard; South Windsor Walk and Wheel Ways; Goodwin College.
- [Trail Symposium October 25th](#). The Planning Subcommittee is working to finalize a key note speaker. Also are considering opening up proposals for posters and sessions soon after Trails Day. The CGC is still encouraged to submit session ideas that satisfy the theme of “connection of trail systems, communities and inclusion of all trail users”
- [Greenways License plate](#) – Bill requested a strategy development discussion for the next meeting agenda.

New Business –

- Bill O reported that the Yellow Bike Program is underway in Manchester’s charter Oak Park. Thanks to Anna Bergeron for help with getting bike lockers open.

Public Q&A – nothing further

Next Meeting – Monday, June 11, 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:

July 9 – meeting **will be held at DEEP HQ Russell Room 3rd Floor**. DOT will be presenting on FCHT improvements, DEEP managers will be available for Q&A.

August – no meeting

September 10

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

November 13

December – no meeting

Adjournment 11:30 AM