

CONNECTICUT



GREENWAYS

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 Meeting Minutes March 11, 2019

9:30 AM to 10:30AM,

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

Council Members present:

Bill O'Neill, Bob Dickinson, Joe Hickey, Bill O'Neill, Bruce Donald, Anna Bergeron, Laurie Giannotti

Council Members on the Phone:

Rista Malanca, Michelle Eckman, Jamie Lintner, Stacey Stearns, Lois Bruinooge

Members of the Public Present:

Matt House, Paul Kovacs – COREC
Richard Lutz – Rocky Hill Resident
Delia Fey - NECCOG
Jim Kulpa – VHB

Members of the Public on the Phone:

Laura Brown – UConn Extension
Eric Hammerling - CFPA
Kate Rattan - SECCOG
Bill Bowles - NEMBA

Call to Order 9:36

Acceptance or Revisions to Agenda – accepted with revisions: Old Business – Hartford-Providence Marathon Relay 1st week of August 2019; Way Finding Signage and State Highways & Roadways.

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

Chairman's Report – Rep. Rojas has presented the Greenways License Plate bill #7058 to the Transportation Committee. No action has yet been taken, the deadline to move the bill out of this committee is 3/25. All are urged to contact their legislators and anyone on the TC they may have a relationship with. Bill O requested that Bruce send his "return on investment" summary report to the Transportation Committee.

Bill #7157 supporting funding for the CT Rec Trails Program has been moved from the Environment Committee (Joint Favorable Decision) to the floor in error and will soon move to the Finance Committee. The bill proposes an additional \$4million for the CRTP. All are urged to contact their legislators and anyone on the FC they may have a relationship with.

Merritt Parkway pending project and report were discussed.

Bruce reminded the members that the CGC can raise \$.

Bruce is talking with Bike-Walk CT about a clearing house for bike-ped information.

Correspondence Laurie reported on discussions with the Shoreline Greenway Trail (SGT) regarding their submission to nominate the SGT in Madison. This SGT is already designated so Laurie will be talking with the SGT folks to see if they are actually submitting an extension. Clinton is the only submission to date, the deadline is April 26.

Laurie met with the Town of Madison re eastward extension of the SGT to link to their Town Park. The meeting was held at the New Haven DOT District office and went well. The Town will be putting together some potential routes along route 1.

DOT Update – Anna reported that the focus currently at the Department is on tolls. The Planning Division is also setting up meetings with the COGs to conduct 'listening sessions' on their current Active Transportation Plan (ATP).

DOT Update (continued) – Anna reported that FHI is updating DOT’s Highway Manual to include a bike-ped chapter. There was some discussion on the ATP and a question raised on whether the Merritt Parkway Study would be released. Bruce will be speaking with Pam Sicatta at DOT to determine feasibility of Bike-Walk CT, CFPA, Tom Maziarz, BPAC, etc.. meeting with the Commissioner to review shared priority issues.

Legislative Report – See Chairman’s report. Bob D raised the concern of a proposed update to the Ebike legislation to include scooters.

Old Business –

- Greenways License Plate – covered under legislative
- Funding Sources Committee – will set up a working session to discuss what funds would be used for and potential sources.
- CGC Status Report on Appointments - No one has gotten a letter yet to be re-appointed or appointed into an open seat. All could also be replaced by the Governor. There are supposed to be 11 sitting members on the council. Suggestion that DOT Commissioner may be able to alert the Governor.
- Way Finding Signage on State Highways & Roads – Bill O made a motion to invite Mark Carlino or his designee to a meeting with the CGC which didn’t pass. Bruce will set up a subcommittee to develop and clarify what is to be discussed with DOT at a future meeting which Anna will set up. CFPA, Rista and Kate Rattan have offered to participate on the subcommittee.
- Greenways Day May 31 – Simsbury is proposed as the host because of their long successful trail legacy. Bruce will have a conversation with the Town. Nominations for new greenways are due by April 26. Past greenway awards will be sent out by Laurie this week for the CGC to consider with a deadline also of April 26.

New Business –

- Inclusion of consideration for motorized uses in planning new CT Greenways. Matt House provided a summary of COREC’s proposals (attached). Discussion of the proposal included Rista reporting on the NRG public meetings associated with its routing study revealed that in addition to the ACOE, COREC’s Tony Gasper will be included on the study team. The NRG wants to build the trail without negative impacts to existing motorized use.

Public Comments – none.

Next Meeting – Monday April 8

Adjournment 11:35 AM

The remaining 2019 meeting dates are:

May 13
June 10
July 8
August – no meeting
September 9
October 15
November 12
December – no meeting

Event Dates:

May 31 - CT Greenways Day
October 24 - CT Trails Symposium