

Connecticut Greenways Council  
Minutes of Meeting  
February 10, 2020  
VHB, Inc. offices, 100 Great Meadow Road, Wethersfield CT 9:30

A regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Monday, February 10, 2020 at the offices of VHB, Inc. Present were chairman Bruce Donald, Jim Kulpa, Joe Hickey, Anna Bergeron, Bill Champagne, Valerie Amsel, Linda Anderson, Pam McCormick, Bob Dickinson, Charles Tracy, Michelle Eckman and Gwen Marrion. Participating by phone were Kevin Tedesco, Laurie Gianotti, Jennifer Carrier, Jamie Lintner and Bill O'Neill (at 10:00). Bruce called the meeting to order at 9:33.

1. Call to Order and Welcome: Bruce.

2. Designation of Secretary for this meeting: Gwen.

3. Acceptance of revisions to agenda. None.

4. Adoption of minutes of January 13, 2020 meeting: Joe moved, seconded by Michelle, to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Chairman's Report

- Bruce will attend the Bike Summit in Washington, D.C. He will meet with Sen. Chris Murphy.
- Bruce talked to DOT about the Plainville design of the section of trail between Northwest Drive and the center of town. Doing the trail in that order will ensure that Plainville will finish the project. Some of it will be built on the tow path which will create historic interest.
- Bonding Bill #12 was released on Thursday. \$3 million is in it for the Recreational Trails Grant Program. Still needs legislative approval and to be put on the Bond Commission agenda.

6. CT DOT Bike/Ped Advisory Comm.: Anna reported that she spoke to Charlie Tracy and others about the Trail Census and Trail Finder and there appears to be interest by the DOT to fund part of the Trail Finder. DOT looks at projects for what is appropriate for them vs. DEEP to take on. DOT's work might be more planning oriented but it is viewing trails as assets.

- Laurie said she met with Jennifer Carrier and others regarding whether CT should re-enter the Federal trail program. DEEP must decide by September whether to opt back into the program.

7. Old Business: Potential turned-back CRTP funds – discussion of proposals and identification of distribution of funds.

- Gwen's list: CFPA, \$34,000; Killingly, \$50K; Manchester \$11K; New Britain \$75K, New London \$79,308; New Milford \$100K; South Windsor, \$50K; Trail Census, 0.
- Joe: CFPA: supports summer trail crew; Killingly, \$50K; Manchester, -0-; New Britain up to \$120K; New London, \$70K for Phase 1; South Windsor, \$70K for design; New Milford, -0-.

- Michelle: supports CFPA summer trail crew, design for New Britain, partial funding for New London, Trail Census.
- Bill: staircase in Manchester's request brings trail access to school, churches and downtown. Connections to Main Street high priority.
- Bruce: supports Trail Census, CFPA summer trail crew, Killingly and New Britain.

Some discussion about giving remaining \$35,500 to South Windsor.

Laurie suggested that we table deciding on the remainder until she talks to DOT to find out at what level they might fund the Trail Finder.

Motion by Joe, seconded by Michelle, to fund the projects as follows:

\$ 34,000 CFPA summer trail crew  
 \$ 50,000 Killingly (entire request)  
\$ 120,000 New Britain (entire request)  
 \$ 204,000

Remaining funds: \$195,300

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Joe, seconded by Michelle, to table a decision on the remaining funds until the next meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe asked whether the Council should suggest to New Milford that they try to obtain funds through DOT. Anna said that towns know they have to get on a COG list for funding for large projects.

Other old business: Bill said he is continuing to lobby to have Greenways license plate money flow back to the Conservation Fund, Greenways Account. Bruce said Bike Walk CT supports this.

8. New Business: None

9. Public Comment: Charlie Tracy said the trail census was in today's news and gave an example of how the data helps create public support for trails. Linda Anderson asked if the Council gives feedback to applicants whose requests are not met. Laurie replied yes.

10. Next meeting: Monday, February 10

11. Adjournment: 10:52.

Submitted by

Gwen Marrion