

Connecticut Greenways Council
Minutes of Meeting
May 11, 2020
Via teleconference due to coronavirus

A regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Monday, May 11, 2020 via teleconference. Participating were chairman Bruce Donald, Anna Bergeron, Bob Dickinson, Charlie Tracy, Paula Burton, Lois Bruinooge, Laurie Gianotti, Bill Boles, Kate Rutan, Aaron Buderis, Bill O'Neill, Gene Nichols, Jamie Lintner, Bill Champagne, Lance Hansen and Gwen Marrion.

1. Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions: Bruce called the meeting to order at 9:34.
2. Adoption of minutes of April 13, 2020 meeting: Approved unanimously with the correction of the spelling of "Tarriffville" and the addition of Lance Hansen in attendance.
3. Chairman's Report
 - Construction on the Air Line Trail crossing project in Putnam is underway.
 - Projects in Columbia and Coventry, including the Moosup Trail, will be separate but federally funded possibly resulting in a 9-month to 1 year delay.
 - Farmington Canal Heritage Trail: portion in Southington is in final design and going to bid in late 2020.
 - Tarriffville: there will be a barrier between the trail and Route 189. CCROG has to agree to add funding. Construction probably won't begin this year.
 - Phase 4 in New Haven will be re-bid.
4. CT DOT and Bike/Ped Advisory Committee: Anna Bergeron reported that Tom Maziarz retired as of May 1 and is staying on to help with the transition. The trail maintenance program has started.
5. Legislation: unlikely the legislature will meet again in 2020. The transportation package that was passed included funding for the Recreational Trail Program but it now has to be put on the Bond Commission agenda and it is unlikely they will meet over the summer.
6. Old Business
 - CRTP New Grant Round: Laurie has not received permission to issue an RFP. Eric and Bruce were on a call with Commissioner Dykes and asked her to issue an RFP and she said she would "look at it". Laurie reported that trails are very busy and she and others are doing random counts. At the Chatfield Hollow trail on Saturday over 500 people entered the park in a three-hour period.
6. New Business:
 - Bruce asked how we can parlay the increase in trail use into funding for trails, and how can new trail users be retained after the virus and turned into trail advocates? More use increases maintenance needs. Paula noted that there is a difference in attendance at places such as Chatfield Hollow vs. the trails where the Trail Census is counting. Bruce noted

that there is spill over from state parks onto other trails. Gwen noted she received a call as president of the Bolton Land Trust from a woman in Portland interested in walking the trails owned by the land trust. Bill said the Department of Tourism should be used to increase visibility of all trails. Bob noted that the Bolton Notch Pond parking area has been very full with cars which makes cycling there difficult. More people should use the commuter lot as the trail head.

- Events: Laurie said the June CT Greenways Day is cancelled due to the virus. Discussion about the October Trail Symposium, September Riverfront Recapture event and UConn Trail Census event. Bruce would like to have some kind of event recognizing new greenways in September or October. The CT Land Conservation Council is holding their annual meeting in October, probably virtually. Bruce will send an email asking for volunteers to help plan a fall event.
- License plate program: Bruce said he thought it was in a bill this year but not the omnibus legislation. Bill will follow up.
- Bob said towns should think about projects they have that are shovel-ready. Bruce said he made a list and emailed it to legislators.
- Bruce said the East Coast Greenway Alliance received a grant from the 1776 Foundation to fund a New Haven to Providence History and Culture guide which includes many DEEP trails. Bruce is looking for content. He is president of the Greater Hartford Sons of the American Revolution and is working on documenting Rochambeau's march from Newport to New York State. Charlie said this aligns with recreational trends that show that people are interested in cultural tourism.

Public Comment

- Bill asked about the \$70 million he thought he heard that was available through DOT. Anna will follow up with Tom Maziarz.
- Bill mentioned the tunnel lighting effort on the Hop River State Park trail in Bolton and asked if the turned-back funds from the RTP program could be used for this. Bruce said the leftover funds went to augment the funding given to New Britain for the Beeline Trail. Gwen said she doesn't see this stated in past minutes and any votes taken about funding should be documented. Laurie will look at emails.
- Charlie Tracy said he is doing a pod cast about trail use as transportation.
- Bill Boles said he sees a great increase in trail use and hopes that can be parlayed into greater support for trails.

7. Next meeting: Monday, June 8, 2020

8. Adjournment: 10:40

Submitted by

Gwen Marrion