

Connecticut Greenways Council
Minutes of Meeting
April 13, 2021
9:00 a.m.
Via teleconference due to coronavirus

The regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Tuesday April 13, 2021 via teleconference. Participating were chairman Bruce Donald, Laurie Giannotti, Paula Burton, Aaron Budris, Bob Dickinson, Cathy Hagadorn, Bill Boles, Claire Cain, Jay Annis, Lois Bruinooge, Rista Malanca, Delia Fay, Bill O'Neill, Jim Kulpa, Laura Brown Gillian Carroll, Mark Jewell, Gwen Marrion and guest Deputy DOT Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto.

Call to Order, Welcome: Bruce called the meeting to order at 9:01.

Deputy Commissioner Eucalitto gave a presentation about the Transportation and Climate Initiative. Gov. Lamont signed onto the program in December 2020 and now it has come out of the legislature's Environment Committee. This is not a gas tax. Currently there is a gas tax of .25 per gallon which goes into a transportation fund but it gives no incentive for fuel suppliers to change their business model. The TCI gives incentives to fuel suppliers to lower their carbon emissions. 50% of the revenue will be allocated to communities overburdened by pollution and underserved by public transportation. The decisions will be made by DEEP and DOT and an Environmental Justice Board will rank applications.

National Trails Day: Claire Cain reported on behalf of CTF&PA. As of now 100 events are scheduled for June 5-6.

Adoption of Minutes of March 9, 2021 meeting: R. Malanca moved, seconded by L. Bruinooge and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report and Legislative Updates: Bruce read Jamie Lintner's resignation letter. Jamie suggested that Gillian Carroll replace him on the Council. Bruce welcomed Gillian.

Projects:

- New Haven Phase 4: moving forward
- Southington: moving forward
- Plainville: design more than 50% done.
- Moosup Valley: design is close to being done
- Hop River Trail in Manchester: Was under review by SHIPO because of possible adverse effect on historic bridge but thinks review is done.

Gwen asked if during the reports on projects if maps could be shown so that Council members and others can know where the projects are and how they connect with other projects. Jim Kulpa shared his screen and walked everyone through a website that shows all trail projects.

- Bob Dickinson added that the South Windsor cross town trail design is underway.
- Bill O'Neill added that he thinks the Town of Manchester will approve a link between Gardner Street and the Charter Oak Greenway.

Legislative updates: the bike safety bill, CT Rec Trails bonding and license plate fund bills made it through committees.

CT DOT and Bike/Ped Advisory Committee: No report.

Old Business

- Awards: R. Malanca moved to approve the slate of nominees as presented by the awards subcommittee, seconded by Paula, and the motion passed unanimously. The award recipients this year are: John Hankins, Neva Taylor, Tom Nosal, Vevette Greenberg, The Housatonic Valley Association, Norbrook Brewery and the Town of Manchester.
- CT Trail Finder/Census Update: Bruce reported that trail usage was up 38% and in some places more than that during the pandemic.
- CT Rec Trails and NRTP funding: Laurie reported that she is moving toward getting back into the federal program in September. CT is the only state that doesn't take federal funding because of the administrative burden of the program but if there is no state funding the federal program is worth getting back into.
- Trails Symposium 2021: Bruce gave examples of other groups holding events and asked for discussion on whether this one should be held but there was no discussion.
- Venue for awards ceremony: Rista gave details about the Torrington location and Jay described the Brookfield location. The pros and cons of both were discussed. Rista moved, seconded by Bill, to hold it in Brookfield. The motion passed unanimously.
- Laurie suggested Council members write to Commissioner Dykes about releasing the \$9,000 currently in the greenways license plate fund.
- Bolton Tunnel lighting: Fuss and O'Neill will be the consultant.
- Review of CGC mission, roles and responsibilities: no discussion.

New Business - None

Public Comment: None.

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 9:00

Adjournment: 10:46

Submitted by

Gwen Marrison