

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

The regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Tuesday July 13, 2021 via teleconference. Attending were chairman Bruce Donald, Laurie Giannotti, Paula Burton, Bob Dickinson, Jay Annis, Bill Champagne, Kim Bradley, Anna Bergeron, Bill Boles, Khadija Shaikh, Beth Merrill, Stacey Stearns, Bill O'Neill (9:50), Aaron Budris, Brian Wilson, Kevin Grindle, Laura Brown, Eric Hammerling, Mark Moriarty, Kate Rattan and Gwen Marrion.

While waiting for members to join the meeting there was a discussion about the costs of building multiuse trails. One average cost stated for a 10-12-foot-wide paved trail is \$3 million per mile, including engineering. Beth Merrill noted that a trail being built in Norwalk costs \$250/linear foot for a stone dust surface including boardwalking and engineering. Nationally the average cost is \$1.4 million per mile, paved.

Call to Order: Bruce called the meeting to order at 9:12 and noted that there is not a quorum of Council members.

Chairman's Report

Project Reports

- Mark Moriarty: Bee Line Trail in New Britain: is in design. The Stanley Loop Trail will go out to bid this fall. A Complete Streets map of New Britain is being worked on. On Ella Grasso Boulevard there is a plan to build a multiuse trail on the side of it and remove the median so it can connect with other trails.
- New Haven: should break ground soon
- Southington (Farmington Canal Heritage Trail): to bid in the fall
- Plainville: the public meeting in June was well-attended and feedback was generally positive.
- Pomfret/Putnam: surfacing is ongoing
- Putnam: there is interest to connect the SNET trail with the Mass Central Trail

Legislative Updates:

Bruce sent a letter on June 22 to the Governor through Mary Glassman asking to put \$3 million for the RTP on the Bond Commission agenda. Eric H asked Council members to email Commissioner Dykes to ask her to say that the RTP funding is a DEEP priority.

CT DOT and Bike/Ped Advisory Committee: Anna Bergeron reported that on the Hop River State Park Trail in Vernon there is a request for a drinking fountain. She said it is up to the town to do this. Discussion of proposed electric scooter legislation. Mark said CCROG's role in the bike share program has ended and Hartford decided to go with scooters which is an option for "micro-mobility" that other cities are trying. Scooters are being ridden over sidewalks and other areas where they shouldn't be, which is a problem. There is a chip seal pilot program planned for 2022 to try this on some road shoulders to make those areas better for cyclists.

Correspondence: Laurie has been receiving inquiries about when an RFP will go out about the RTP.

Old Business

- Bruce talked to Mason Trumbull who will help create a group to set guidelines on how the newly restored greenway license plate fund will be managed.
- Laurie suggested considering hiring a consultant to run the trail symposium and also the Council should think about how to let CT residents know about the greenways plate.
- CT Trail Finder/Census Update: Kim Bradley said there are 50 trail system postings, she is working on more and is working on how trailside services will be added to the website. Second quarter data from the CT Trail Census will be downloaded soon. More funding is needed to keep the programs going beyond 2021. Laura Brown presented CT data at a national webinar.
- Bruce said CORA has received 501(c)(3) status
- Alternate Funding Source subcommittee: Laurie said the committee met and is exploring funding sources. A UConn grad student is researching a model in another state where an insurance company supports trails. Laurie said there should be an MOU between the DEEP and DOT by the end of July about opting into the federal recreational trails program if funding for the RTP isn't approved at the state level.

Public Comment: Bob Dickinson said Kevin Grindle gave a presentation in South Windsor on the redesign of the Cross Town Trail. Bill O'Neill said the Maine Moose diner in Columbia is working on reopening a portion of the trail near there.

Next meeting: Tuesday September 14, 2021 9:00

Adjournment: 10:04

Submitted by



Gwen Marrion