

Connecticut Greenways Council
Minutes of Meeting
June 15, 2021
9:00 a.m.
Via teleconference due to coronavirus

The regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Tuesday June 15, 2021 via teleconference. Attending were chairman Bruce Donald, Laurie Giannotti, Paula Burton, Bob Dickinson, Cathy Hagadorn, Jay Annis, Jim Kulpa, Bill Champagne, Kim Bradley, Timothy Malone, Jennifer Carrier, Lois Bruinooge, Anna Bergeron, Bill Boles, Gillian Carroll, Judith Miller, Khadija Shaikh, Beth Merrill, Stacey Stearns, Aaron Goode and Gwen Marrion.

Call to Order, Welcome: Bruce called the meeting to order at 9:03.

Adoption of Minutes: Gwen moved, Paula seconded, to adopt the minutes of the May 11 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report and Legislative Updates: Bruce said the legislative session closed on June 11 and is opening again June 16. Possible \$9 million for rec trails program, possibly released in multiple years. Bruce urges people to contact legislators to ask for \$3 million to be put on Bond Commission agenda. Has been 2 ½ years since the RTP has been funded and projects are languishing. Greenways license plate bill passed. Discussion continuing on the parameters of how to spend the \$9K currently in the license plate fund being held by the DEEP.

Project Reports (by Bruce unless otherwise indicated):

- New Haven: should break ground soon
- Hop River State Park Trail near Willimantic: in permitting for bridge
- Southington (Farmington Canal Heritage Trail): agreements to be finalized soon
- Pomfret crossings project: complete. Hydroseeding, fencing, surfacing into Putnam needed
- Killingly/Quinnebaug River Trail from Putnam to Moosup Valley: RFQ
- Moosup Valley Trail (mostly in Sterling): Through Let's Go CT. Going to bid soon. Bruce will talk to Rhode Island representatives re getting trail to Providence
- Bee Line Trail in New Britain: going well
- Beth Merrill reported on Norwalk River trail: building 30 miles of trails from Norwalk to Danbury. Construction in Norwalk underway. In Redding building a section. Funding is a compilation of DEEP, DOT grants and private funding through fundraising. No federal money.
- Empire State Trail: Bruce is talking to NY State DOT and West COG
- Tim Malone reported that the gap closure study (Bloomfield, Hartford, East Hartford) was approved by DOT and will propose final gap closures in the Capital region
- Laurie reported that there are issues with opposition to the Airline Trail in Thompson or Pomfret. People attended meetings with good comments on how to move projects forward. Feels good compromises were reached. Bruce added that fencing, berms and plantings are ways to accommodate unhappy neighbors.

CT DOT and Bike/Ped Advisory Committee: Anna Bergeron reported that she is the new Bike/Ped coordinator in a new unit that has a staff of four including engineers and planners. On June 22 there will be a public meeting about the Plainville trail. LRF trail network is using GIS trail data to create a standard for trail information statewide. Will map a trail network that will look like road mapping. Community Connectivity projects are underway.

Correspondence: None.

Old Business

- Greenway license plate fund restored in the Bike/Ped Safety bill. DMV has to determine how to deal with revenue. Our Council needs to figure out how to publicize the program. Bob Dickinson mentioned that Steve Mitchell in Simsbury made people aware of the program when they bought cars from his dealership.
- Award ceremony recap: Bruce said he feels it went well. Said Jay and Mary were great hosts in Brookfield, the location was comfortable and pretty, Cathy H did a great job guiding a walk along the Still River. Jay thanks all for allowing Brookfield to be the host.
- CT Trail Finder/Census Update: Kim Bradley announced that the Trail Finder was launched online on June 5. She and her team are working on adding new trails. CT Trail Census will need more funding to keep it going.
- Bruce said CORA is applying to become a 501(c)(3) non profit
- Alternate Funding Source subcommittee: Laurie said the committee will meet on the first Thursday of each month. Exploring funding sources such as nonprofits, partnering with corporations, insurance companies and universities or creating a statewide 501(c)(3). Norwalk River Valley Trail member provided information on forming a neighborhood group. UConn grad student is researching a model in another state where an insurance company supports trails. Rista offered a webinar on how P&Z might support and promote trails.

New Business: Sue Grossman Greenway: Bruce will write a letter of support.

Public Comment: Bob asked when Council meetings will resume being in person. Bruce said possibly will be quarterly. Possible locations DEEP, CCROG or DOT.

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 9:00

Adjournment: 10:09

Submitted by



Gwen Marrion