

Connecticut Greenways Council
Minutes of Meeting
May 11, 2021
9:00 a.m.
Via teleconference due to coronavirus

The regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Tuesday May 11, 2021 via teleconference. Attending were chairman Bruce Donald, Laurie Giannotti, Paula Burton, Bob Dickinson, Cathy Hagadorn, Claire Cain, Jay Annis, Rista Malanca, Delia Fay, Jim Kulpa, Laura Brown, Bill Champagne, Kate Rattan, Mark Moriarty, Brian Wilson, Kim Bradley, Gene Nichols, Timothy Malone, Jennifer Carrier, Kevin Sullivan and Gwen Marrion. Anna Bergeron joined the meeting at 9:20.

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

Adoption of Minutes: Rista moved, Bruce seconded, to adopt the minutes of the April 13 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report and Legislative Updates: Bruce said the following bills are still alive in the legislative process: TCI Bill 884, bike/ped safety, \$3 million for the RTP, greenways license plates. No word on the \$9K that is in the license plate fund being held by the DEEP even though Bruce sent two letters. He will write to Commissioner Dykes.

Projects:

- New Haven: should break ground soon
- Plainville: design more than 60% done. Includes 800 feet of boardwalk that will run along canal tow path. There are vocal opponents to this project. Phase 3 near Robertson Airport being discussed.
- Tariffville: should start soon
- Bee Line Trail in New Britain: Mark Moriarty said is in three phases based on sources of funding
- Airline Trail crossings at west end: nearing completion, bids out for resurfacing, bridges and tunnels are in
- ECG gap projects in Greater Hartford: \$420K for route gaps. Tim Malone reported doesn't know if will be funded. Jennifer Carrier asked if this gap study is being done in conjunction with the Greater Hartford Mobility Study. Yes, under the Hartford 400 Plan. Griffin Line still being considered even though is still a freight line.

Jim Kulpa reported:

- New Haven: contract should be signed soon
- Hop River State Park Trail: SHIPO approved demolition of bridge, out for comment
- Southington: in permit stage
- New Britain: Stanley Loop in permitting, Bee Line – advertising for a consultant
- Ansonia: construction should start soon
- Pomfret: starting
- Moosup Valley Trail: in design review, funding is through Let's Go CT

CT DOT and Bike/Ped Advisory Committee: Anna Bergeron reported that Community Connectivity projects are underway. Simsbury sidewalk project is complete and Anna and others will be visiting tomorrow. WebFinder is launching in June. The consultant has finalized the bicycle section of the Design Guide in the highway manual. The Intermodal Planning Unit at DOT is being dismantled and people are moving to new units. CT has no dedicated bike/ped coordinator.

Correspondence: Laurie reported receiving nominations for greenway designations and questions about the availability of RTP funds. She keeps those emails on file so she can send news in future.

Old Business

- Greenway designation nominations:
 - Wethersfield: Joe Hickey endorses
 - Portland (Heritage Way Greenway): extends state park trail into Portland. Excellent quality of submitted materials.
 - Motion by Gwen to designate these two trails as greenways; seconded by Stacey. Unanimous.

- CT Trail Finder/Census Update: Laura Brown said she has spoken with the UConn Foundation regarding funding. They are creating a fund to accept donations and need a list of potential donors to begin fundraising. Only need to pledge \$1 to get on list. The administration the fund is TBD. Paula asked who can apply. Has not been determined yet.

New Business: CT Greenways Day in Brookfield June 4: Mason Trumble will attend and speak. Jay will send directions as soon as they are comfortable with COVID protocols.

Public Comment: Bruce

- June 26 ECG Ride the State has re-opened registration to accommodate more riders.
- Kevin Sullivan reported that the Wethersfield High School bike club has decorated and put on display (thru May) bicycles around Main Street.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 9:00

Adjournment: 10:55

Submitted by

Gwen Marrion with help from
Laurie Gianotti