

Connecticut Greenways Council
Minutes of Meeting
October 12, 2021
9:00 a.m.
Via teleconference

The regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Tuesday October 12, 2021 via teleconference. Attending were chairman Bruce Donald, Laurie Gianotti, Paula Burton, Bob Dickinson, Bill Boles, Stacey Stearns, Laura Brown, Aaron Budris, Lois Bruinooge, Jillian Carroll, Kevin T., Bill Champagne, Timothy Malone and Gwen Marrion.

Call to Order, Welcome: Bruce called the meeting to order at 9:05.

Adoption of Minutes: Stacey moved and Bob seconded the adoption of the September 2021 minutes. Approved unanimously.

Chairman's Reports:

- Farmington Canal Heritage Trail: should go to bid this fall
- Plainville Phase 1: moving along. Test boring for boardwalk being done
- Moosup Valley: is funded, going to bid next year
- Thompson heading north on Air Line Trail: looking for funding for last gap

Gwen asked what the Council's role is in the trail projects that Bruce reports on. Bruce said we should know what is going on so we can help the process. Some projects have received RTP funding and some of our members are involved in them in other capacities.

The East Coast Greenway Alliance is meeting at Riverfront Recapture.

RTP proposals are due Nov. 1. Our Nov. 9 meeting is the last of 2021 and by then we should know what proposals have been received. Will need to meet in December to review. Laurie recommended a subcommittee be formed to do a preliminary review. She reported that CT State Parks received no increase in their budget so they might request funds.

Legislative Updates:

- TCI is still a priority for DEEP
- Bruce will talk to Eric Hammerling and Bike Walk CT to see what they are going to promote next year

CT DOT and Bike/Ped Advisory Committee: None.

Correspondence: Laurie said she has been getting questions about the RTP. Also, she was asked by the Governor's office to complete a form re the composition of our council. Two greenways (Rocky Hill and Branford) will be submitting requests to nominate greenways in their towns for designation.

Old Business

- License plate fund: Bruce was told by Mason Trumbull that there is only \$1,500 in the fund, not \$9,000 as previously thought. As of Oct. 1, 2021 DEEP is required to sweep new revenue from the plates into the fund. Laurie was asked to work with the outreach division on a public campaign to publicize the program.

- Greater Hartford Gap Project: Tim Malone reported that an RFP is going out soon. This will be an 18-month project to analyze the remaining gaps in the ECG in greater Hartford.
- CT Trail Finder/Census Update: Laura Brown reported that UConn is applying to be part of the Economic Development and Tourism multistate project to help the trail census coordinate with other states to create a database for the public's use. Would like the Council's support via a letter. Bruce will write one. The Northeast Health District is partnering with the Trail Finder program. Trails are being added weekly and Kim is working on an app that will allow the public to put in data.

New Business:

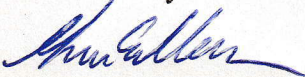
- Rocky Hill submitted an application for a greenway designation. The greenway joins with a trail in Wethersfield and links historical sites. Gwen read the criteria on the spreadsheet that Laurie fills out. The project looks good. Laurie noted that towns and organizations can apply which is good, but neighborhoods should not. The designation is important for P&Zs to know about for planning purposes. Most important aspect is a municipal support letter. Bob moved, seconded by Lois, to approve Rocky Hill's application for its greenway to be designated as a state greenway. Approved unanimously.
- Laurie reported on the new interactive online greenways map. Bill Tedesco of DEEP's IT division was great to work with. The map gives people an understanding of the overall system of greenways in the state and helps town land use boards when they review applications. Our council could proactively suggest to towns that they include the greenways in their planning documents.
- The Guide to the ECG From New Haven to Providence has been printed and is available in hard copy form and on line.

Public Comment: None.

Next meeting: No December meeting is scheduled but a special meeting will probably be scheduled in order to review applications under the RTP.

Adjournment: 10:04

Submitted by



Gwen Marrion