

Connecticut Greenways Council
Minutes of Meeting
September 14, 2021
9:00 a.m.
Via teleconference due to coronavirus

The regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Tuesday September 14, 2021 via teleconference. Attending were chairman Bruce Donald, Paula Burton, Bob Dickinson, Cathy Hagadorn, Jay Annis, Kim Bradley, Bill Boles, Judith Miller, Stacey Stearns, Kate Rattan, Brian Wilson, Claire Cain, Laura Brown, Aaron Budris, Marty Sitler and Gwen Marrion.

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

Adoption of Minutes: Bob moved and all were in favor of approving the minutes of the June 15 and July 13 meetings.

Chairman's Reports:

- New Haven: Bruce attended the ground breaking ceremony
- Southington (Farmington Canal Heritage Trail): should go to bid this fall
- Plainville Phase 1 (Town Line Road north to Norton Park): to bid in 2022
- Plainville Phase 3 (center of Plainville to Farmington line): construction in 2024
- Met with representative from Sacred Heart University about a possible trail between their two campuses, one of which is the former GE headquarters.
- Talked to NY State DOT re Brewster to Danbury connection
- Rode on the ECG ride from NY to Philadelphia. About 400 riders. Was organized by a professional event planner. Might net \$250,000. Had about \$40,000-\$50,000 in corporate sponsorships.

Legislative Updates:

- RFPs for the RTP are due Nov. 1. The Council will grade them and make recommendations to the DEEP Commissioner who has final say. Jay asked if he can apply for this program if he also applied for another DOT program (yes).
- TCI is still around.

CT DOT and Bike/Ped Advisory Committee: None.

Correspondence: Bruce wrote to Tom Tyler at DEEP and met with Mason Trumbull re how the greenways license plate fund will be administered. Waiting to hear details.

Old Business

- Alternate Funding Source subcommittee: Laura Brown spoke to the UConn Foundation about facilitating fundraising. They said they require a "major donor" to get it started and they take 5% of donations for administration. A minimum of \$5,000 is needed to start. Must be a donor advised fund. Laurie G asked Kim Bradley to remind Bruce that someone needs to take leadership of this subcommittee.
- CT Trail Finder/Census Update: Kim Bradley reported she is working with the Air Line Trail master plan project. The QR-based survey has been expanded to include the Air Line Trail. Trail Finder: has 75 active trail systems posted, over 100 in development. Dept. of Public Health is interested. Working on adding connections to community amenities such as farmers'

markets. Cathy H asked how to get counter info from along the Still River Greenway in Brookfield. Aaron said he is looking at how to make counters more available for people to use them temporarily.

New Business: Bob D asked about the use of e-bikes on trails. He has seen them being used but not pedaled. There are 3 classes of them in CT: Class 1 and 2 = allowed on trails. They go about 20-25 mph. , Class 3 = throttled, not allowed on trails. Bill B clarified: Class 1 = pedal assist, limited to 20 mph. Class 2 = has throttle, can use pedals or not, limited to 20 mph. Class 3 = pedal assist, more for commuting, limited to 28 mph, very few sold in the U.S. He owns one and says it goes about 1-2 mph faster than on a normal bicycle and the rider gets as much exercise as he does on a normal bicycle. Good for enabling disabled people to get outside more. Bruce said that 40% of bicycle sales in the U.S. are e-bikes and Class 3s are being used in cities for deliveries. Cathy H said that in hilly New Milford people are using them on the trails. Need messaging about the etiquette of using them. Bruce said that is a possible use of the money in the greenway plate account.

Public Comment: None.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 9:00

Adjournment: 10:05

Submitted by



Gwen Marrison