



Connecticut Greenways Council

Minutes of Meeting

March 14, 2023

Via Zoom

A regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Tuesday, March 14, 2023 via ZOOM. The agenda was published on the website prior to the meeting. Meeting link details were sent to invitee list by Kim Bradley with reminder several days prior.

Present were council members: Bruce Donald (Chair), Paula Burton, Bob Dickenson, Lois Bruinooge, Bill O'Neill and Stacey Sterns, and Ex-Officio members Kim Bradley and Anna Bergeron.

Guests attending were: Aaron Budris, Norm (guest), Kyle Casiglio, Emily Wilson, Claire Cain, Zbigniew Grabowski, Alan Blasenstein, "Jay", "meeting guest" and Dan Buckley.

Bruce called the meeting to order at 9:05 and established a quorum. Audio recording was started.

1. Call to Order and Welcome: Bruce.

2. Adoption of minutes.

- Oct 11 and Feb 14th minutes sent as attachments, call for additions.
- Motion to accept both, Paula. Bill O seconded.
- Passed unanimously.

3. Chairman's Report – Bruce Donald.

Trails:

- Tariffville project
 - Finishing drainage about 2 months ahead of time.
- New Haven
 - State Street: east side will be cycle track.
 - Water Street same to Long Wharf.
- Other Projects?
 - None.

Bidding:

- FCHT
 - Southington project broken into 2 projects.
 - "southern" to bid this year.
 - "northern" stalled due to rail area.
- Mooseup Valley (R.I Connector)

- Bruce attended RIDOT meeting where they were very interested in this project as it provides pressure to connect.

Legislative:

- Vision Zero Bill HB 5917 – should pass.
 - “right of way” language pulled from text; unsure of compromise language.
 - Impacts Plainville/other due to 48 month time limit for funds and ‘raise grant’ monies.
 - Anna agrees and indicates it may get slipped in in omnibus bill text.
 - Discussion on Red Light Bill impact.
4. CT DOT & Bike/Ped Advisory Committee -Anna Bergeron
- Updating (State?) Complete Streets policy
 - Currently, 1% funding goes to Bike Ped initiatives.
 - Working with MA.
 - This year hoping to have Complete Streets policy
 - Impacts statewide design
 - Has received request for mileage markers on Charter Oak Greenway.
 - Will follow up with person.
 - Bruce indicates that there had been a request from Hop River to be assigned as an official trail and this all ties together with the concept of continuous markers/way points, consistency of distances and use for emergency response.
 - Kim indicates Hop River is coordinating with DEEP.
 - Bruce indicates that East Coast Greenway//East Hartford finalization will determine final trail mileage markers.
 - 2026/2027? NH -> Providence complete.
5. CT DEEP Updates – Kim Bradley
- CRT closed Mar 1st. Record setting response.
 - 92 Applications. \$28.6 MM in total requests.
 - About half have had initial review.
 - Everyone so far has scored as Medium or High Impact!
 - 18 of 25 of the municipalities designated as ‘distressed’ have applied.
 - Initial sub-committee has met and trained.
 - Next meetings Mar 23 and April 6th.
 - Co-ord with DOT to be set-up.
 - Bruce indicates this impacts DOT construction conts, budgets.
 - Grant notices will be sent out end April with meeting with recipients in May.
 - Discussion on moving timing, next cycle, due to town budgeting at same time.
 - Thanks to Laurie G for all her help, support, guidance.

6. Old Business:

- Connecticut Trails summit 2023 planning (Kim)
 - Friday Oct 13, 2023
 - Call for volunteers to help with planning.
 - Dan B, Claire C, Jay (guest), Alan B. offer.
 - Bill O suggests Peter Harnick as guest speaker.
 - Bruce indicates that he passed it by Gov Lamont.
- SCORP (Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan) (Kim)
 - Surveys to go out. Contact her if want to influence content.
- CT Trail Finder/Trail Census update (Emily, Aaron)
 - Aaron indicated that they are working on 2022 count data.
 - New calibration factor protocol being developed.
 - Target 1st week April.
 - Data portal updated.
 - Emily indicated that some locations would be combined and temporary counters included.
 - Trail Finder
 - Working with Bill on Charter Oak
 - Working on including trails on Skys-the-limit into map.
 - Bruce indicated that RIDOT was very complementary of our program.
- Rail with Trail in CT (Bruce)
 - Griffin line/Hartford opportunity on Freight line.
 - Part of Hartford 400 plan.
 - DanB offered that Shoreline Greenway Trail had a previous proposed routing along Amtrak line if that provided additional weight of interest.
- Greenways Fund (Bruce)
 - \$4700 available.
 - Trail summit use.
 - RAC cards ready to print.
 - Kim asked about possible funding from DEEP(?)
 - Bill advised that these should be included in Registration Renewals (#9) as well as along trail.

7. New Business

- Greenways 2023 Nominations. (Bruce)
 - Jun 2nd awards
 - Portal open on website.
 - Need venue
 - Try to be an awarded trail or new part of state.
 - Dan will check with Shoreline Greenway Trail team and advise on support of Hammonasset Meig's point location that Kim suggested.
 - Should there be fewer awards?
 - Bruce will re-send criteria and historical.

No other business, end of general agenda

Public Comment:

- Claire Cain: Trails Day Registration is now open. WWW.TRAILSDAY.ORG
 - Looking for Events/items.
- Zbigneiw Grabowski (FHCT): Questions on crushed gravel impact vs. paved surface.
 - Much discussion on Pro/cons. ADA Compliance.
 - Kim suggested excellent topic for Connecticut Trails Learning Council
 - Will send ZB details.
- Kim Bradley: Connecticut Volunteer Horse Patrol celebration Mar 18th 10-2PM
 - Looking for testimonials.
- Kim: Photography exhibit at capital Apr 3-14th.
- Kim: Connecticut Trails Learning Committee, 3rd Wed 2PM. (April 22nd next)

Next meeting: **Tuesday, Apr 11th.**

- Public encouraged to attend

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM

Submitted by Dan Buckley