



Connecticut Greenways Council

Minutes of Meeting

May 9, 2023

Via Zoom

A regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Tuesday, May 9, 2023 via ZOOM. The agenda was published on the website and invitees prior to the meeting. Meeting link details were sent to invite list by Kim Bradley several days prior.

Present were council members: Bruce Donald (Chair), Paula Burton, Bob Dickenson, Gillian Carroll, Cathy Hagadorn, Lois Bruinooge, William O'Neill, and Ex-Officio members Kim Bradley and Anna Bergeron.

Guests attending were: Zbigniew Grabowski, James Kulpa, Kyle Casiglio, Norm Berg, Delia Fey, Emily Wilson, Aaron Budris, Jay Stange, Martha ('meeting guest'), Bill Boles and Dan Buckley.

Bruce established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:04. Audio recording was started at 9:02.

- Welcome: Bruce Donald (BD).
- Adoption of minutes.
 1. April 11 minutes were sent as attachments, call for additions. No Discussion.
 2. Motion to accept, Bill O'Neill (B.O.). Bob Dickenson (B.D.) seconded.
 3. Passed unanimously.
- Chairman's Report – Bruce Donald.
 1. Rec Trails Grants
 - a. Huge thanks to Kim Bradley (K.B.) and team at DEEP!
 - b. Bruce has been told that this is a big deal for the state.
 - c. There is currently work being done in the legislature to increase Grant Funding to \$10MM for a 2 year cycle.
 2. Bruce attended a breakfast with BikeWalkCT and several legislators.

Discussed the Vision Zero bill (HB 5917)

 - i. Areas of potential contention.
 1. Banning Open Alcohol containers in vehicles. (CT is one of 3 states without this provision).
 2. Universal Motorcycle Helmet (>18yo).
 3. "Idaho Stop" – Right on Red Study.
 4. Potential Automated Enforcement ('red light cameras') tactics had the most discussion.

- ii. Bruce encouraged all to contact state legislators and voice support.
 - 3. 4 Public Information meetings for Design Studies for Simsbury, Bloomfield, Hartford and East Hartford that are gaps in the East Coast Greenway (ECG).
 - a. These are to establish options.
 - b. Late Summer, early fall likely timing for additional Public Meetings on options developed.
 - 4. Projects:
 - a. Southington: Farmington Heritage Canal Trail.
 - i. Bids are out. Seem to be coming back sl. Higher \$\$.
 - b. Moosup Valley State Park Trail. (5.5 Miles to RI border – part of ECG)
 - i. At bid.
 - c. Rep Courtney got \$2.2M federal earmark for Quinebaug River Trail.
 - d. Andover Bridge to Willimantic - end of Hop River Trail.
 - i. Moving along. Start construction ~2024.
 - e. Pomfret, Airline Trail.
 - i. Resurfacing ~2024
 - f. New Haven, Phase 4.
 - i. Northern/Southern section should be done in fall.
 - ii. State Street cycle track sometime in 2025
 - g. New Haven Shoreline Trail and Federal Earmark \$7MM (12/24/22).
 - i. Dan Buckley doesn't have any update or info but reaching out to Giovanni Zinn (NH Town Engineer) for update.
 - ii. K.B. indicated that there was a special unit established to track Earmark Grants
 - 1. Bret Stark is lead for this.
- CT DOT & Bike/Ped Advisory Committee -Anna Bergeron
 - 1. Safe Routes to school programs (Ridgefield....)
 - 2. Bike to Work Day, May 17th
 - There will be a group ride on May 19th.
 - 3. Goldstar Bridge walkway is still not open but there is Shuttle Bus service
 - 4. Plainville – 60% review.
 - 5. Waterbury – issues with new trail.
 - Parking on grass median has wrecked trail.
 - Needs regrading/solutions.
 - Going through DOT
 - City has still not had a ribbon cutting.
 - Aaron Budris (A.B.) indicated that it was not the entire trail and just next to some legacy businesses.
 - Needs more separation from cars.
 - 6. B.D. attended a meeting with MassDOT last week.
 - They are developing a Maintenance Study for trails.
 - Good to follow this lead once developed.

- CT DEEP Updates – Kim Bradley
 1. Connecticut Rec Trails Grants.
 - There was a briefing with the Commissioner last night regarding the Press Release pending.
 - Hopefully tomorrow (5/10).
 - Letters have gone out.
 - Getting many requests on Grant Reviews.
 - Please be patient.
 - Laurie Giannotti is still helping but please go through K.B.
 - Contracting timeframes being developed.
 - Templates being developed for Scope of work.
 - Working to get contracts out.
 - Feeling good about this process!
 2. Big thanks to CTDOT for coordination on Earmarks and Projects.
 3. Several Updates
 - Review of Motorized issues experienced.
 - Review of Water Management issues experienced.
 - Review of Mountain Bike opportunities.
 4. SCORP : Initiative review for Trails and Greenways.
 - Offer any input.
 5. Attended International Trails Training meeting.
 - State specific programs are extremely helpful to have and easier.
 - Great contacts.

OLD BUSINESS

- (K.B.) CRT (DEEP) will have Webinar May 17th for Award Winners and for Contracting, Reporting and Reimbursement processes.
 1. Connecticut Trails Day June 2nd at the Hammonasset Beach State Park shelter directly behind the Meig's Point Nature Center area.
 - Newly included trails as Connecticut Greenways will be announced.
 - Press Release is needed.
 - Branford Trail has been nominated.
 - Endorsed by Town.
 - Completed strong application.
 - There will also be individual awards – 5-6.
 - B.D. and K.B. will establish list of dignitaries to be invited.
 - K.B. and D.B. will meet off-line to discuss possible support from local groups
 - Shoreline Greenway Trail.
 - Madison Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Committee.
 2. Connecticut Trails Summit, Oct 13th.
 - Sub-Committee still needs to meet. B.D. will set one.
 - Location Ideas.

- Rista suggested Torrington, 5 point center, Warner Theatre.
 - Prior UConn campus
 - Option to work with URBAN HIKERS organization for a film fest the night before.
 - Fundraiser?
 - BikePed “Red Carpet” event????
3. License Plate Program (B.D.)
- Rack Cards printing TBD Laurie G helping.
 - There is a plan but holding to release. Should be today (59).
 - B.O. indicated that this should be coordinated with CT Automobile Dealers
 - Included in Renewal Mailings.
4. Greenways Fund (B.D.)
- \$4,700 is available for Events and Activities
5. Trail Census (A.B.)
- Thanks to UConn and Council for Support
 - Data and Dashboard should be released this week.
 - Working with 3 groups on Short Term Counter placements.
 - Trail Finder
 - “Sky’s the Limit” challenge.
 - Presented Poster at International Trails Summit.

New Business:

NONE.

Public Comments:

- B.O. indicated a “JOB WELL DONE”!
- B.D. commented that he was looking forward to what comes out of legislative process.
 - State Bond funding
 - Bills
 - Timing
 - Funding for Staffing.
- B.D. Invitation for ALL to attend June 2nd.
- Ride the EAST June 24.

Next Meeting June 13th.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:12 AM

Submitted by Dan Buckley