



# Connecticut Greenways Council

Minutes of Meeting

June 13, 2023

Via Zoom

A regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Tuesday, June 13, 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), Rista Malanca, Paula Burton, Claire Cain, Bob Dickenson, Cathy Hagadorn, William O'Neill, and Ex-Officio members Kim Bradley and Anna Bergeron.

Guests attending were: Alan Blasenstein, Jay Stange, Kate Ratten, Bill Boles, Caitlin Palmer, Aaron Budris, Jame Kulpa, Kyle Casiglio, Norm Berg, Martha Comeely, Christopher Roberts, Kevin Sullivan, Nicholas Velseboer, Zbigniew Grabowski, Emily Wilson and Dan Buckley.

Bruce established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:03. Audio recording was started at 9:02 .

- Adoption of minutes.
  1. May 9th minutes were sent the night prior as attachments, call for additions. No Discussion.
  2. Motion to accept with possible updates via Bruce Donald (BD). Made by Rista Malanca (RM), Cathy Hagadorn, (CH) seconded.
  3. Passed unanimously.
- Chairman's Report – Bruce Donald.

Legislative session is completed.

  1. Vision Zero HB5917 (Now Public Act 22-116) passed with some elements missing from earlier versions.
    - a. Includes “Red Light Cameras” with several conditions.
      - i. Municipalities can enact cameras.
      - ii. Cameras for DOT worksites up and running.  
Anna Bergeron (AB) indicates its being addressed by DOT.
      - iii. Locations have to be reviewed by legislature.
  2. Senate Bill 998 passes.
  3. **AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TAX ABATEMENT FOR CERTAIN CONSERVATION EASEMENTS.** To authorize municipalities to exempt from real property taxes any portion of land that (1) qualifies as a greenway, (2) is a terrestrial recreational trail that does not exceed one hundred feet in width, (3) is the subject of a conservation easement conveyed by the owner of the land to a municipality, the state or a

nonprofit land conservation organization, and (4) to specify that a greenway trail corridor may be deemed open space land.

- a. BD indicated that this has much more implication for rural communities.  
Claire Cain (CC) indicated this is a game changer!  
Looking for a town to be a 'beta' tester.
  - b. C will provide 'talking points' to share and guide
  - c. CH asked HOW do HOA's deal with this? How do communities work to motivate them?  
BD indicated that they should qualify in theory.
  - d. Value of property needs to be defined.  
Kim Bradley (KB) Need to estimate \$\$ value for property values.
4. \$10MM/year (2 years) Rec Trails funding passed within bonding package.
  5. ROW acquisition is back and available as a policy (per AG's Office) at DOT for trails.
    - a. Plainfield/Southington contacted Bruce.
      - i. July 20<sup>th</sup> public meeting – Zoom announcement will be sent.
- DOT – Anna Bergeron.
    1. Putman Bridge Trail opening April 15<sup>th</sup> 2024.
      - a. Ahead of schedule
    2. Manchester/Charter Oak
      - a. DOT signed PAL (Project Authorization Letter) agreement
      - b. Town will handle maintenance.
      - c. Use of State Conductivity Funds.
    3. Renegotiation of contracts with maintenance agreements where missing/not clear/not done previously.
      - a. Need to include now.
      - b. IF work needs to be done (without agreement) it will be done, IF town signs a PAL to continue maintenance.
      - c. BD: upper piece of FHCT (East Granby) is an example.
    4. Avon starting to make improvements as P.Z. using CT LOTCIP funding.
      - a. Old Farms road alignment.
    5. BD indicated a public hearing will take place in Pomfret for the ALSPT resurfacing program.
      - a. Jim Kulpa (JK) indicated that there is a month or 2 delay in meeting then 4/1/25 start estimate.

Southington FHCT Pre-construction meeting scheduled. Schultz got the construction contract.

Moosup Valley State Park Trail bids are in for construction starting this fall.

6. BD indicated that generally, actual construction costs are coming in 30% higher than Engineers estimates.
- DEEP – Kim Bradley
    1. Rec Trails contracts: meeting with team to understand legal requirements.
      - a. Laurie Gianatti is helping. Last 5 contracts to review.
      - b. Developing a template for contracts.
      - c. Timing this summer for all contract
      - d. Will work with DOT and COGs to coordinate contracts.

- BD indicated that its key to work with DOT and work earlier with the COGs to see what's on their lists.
- 2. DEEP may need to consider an additional Admin request and funding
  - a. Add 1 person for office.
  - b. Tom Tyler and Mike Lambert are supportive.
  - c. RFP being developed.
- OLD Business
  1. Connecticut Trails Summit Planning
    - a. October 13<sup>th</sup> - may want to plan for a full week of activities!
    - b. Torrington, 5-points facility location.
    - c. First meeting planning held. Laurie Gianatti helping.
    - d. Events being planned.
    - e. Working on a theme.
    - f. Working on presentation
    - g. Some Greenways funds are available. Also Rec Trails funding possible.
      - i. KB will follow up with BD.
    - h. Possible CORA sponsors.
    - i. Possible Rural Trails Film Festival.
    - j. Next (Second) meeting End June.
  2. SCORP
    - a. Surveys
      - i. "Rec Enthusiasts" Survey closed.
      - ii. "Outreach to Municipalities" survey is still open.
      - iii. "Active Rec User" survey in development
        1. For State Parks.
        2. Summer implementation timing.
    - b. Goals and Objectives
      - i. Being developed.
      - ii. KB missed meeting.
      - iii. Looking for feedback from CGC.
      - iv. Next meeting?
      - v. KB to work with "Kebia" (SCORP point person).
      - vi. BD will send note and CC KB, Paula Burton, Mike Lambert and CGC members.
  3. Trail Finder - Emily Wilson (EW)/Census – Aaron Budris (AB)
    - a. Trailfinder
      - i. Dashboard almost ready to go.
        1. Summertime launch.
      - ii. Trail finder being updated with help by Adelaide.
      - iii. Imbedding feature for other organizations websites.
    - b. Census counters
      - i. Beta testing on Temporary Counters.

ii. Setting up methodology to normalize “partial” data to “full year”

4. License Plate Funding Program
  - a. BD is asking for a Quarterly update.
  - b. How to transfer \$\$ from DMV to DEEP?
  - c. Laurie G working on printing of RAC cards.
  - d. BD has connections to Auto Dealers Association for placement of RAC cards and Brochures.
5. ALSPT 12-Town Plan & Trails Team update
  - a. Airline State Park planning website launched.
    - i. Alsptregion.org
    - ii. Funded via Rec Trails.
6. Greenways Awards - Recap by BD.
  - a. Went well thanks to everyone that helped make it a great morning.
  - b. Need to get connected to Photographer.
  - c. Press release went out of summary of recipients.
  - d. Need to discuss Pre-Publicity or this event.

- NEW Business

1. BD indicates that the Web presence needs updating.
  - a. Social media as well.
  - b. KB indicated that DEEP page is being updated with need to include CGC programs
  - c. Can BD meet with DEEP communication team to discuss.
  - d. Possibility to model after DOT/BPAC site.
  - e. EW offered to connect CTTRAILS.UConn.EDU/ for blog, connections, etc.
2. Jay (Guest) indicated:
  - a. He has requested 2022 data from EW
    - i. Compliments to team!
  - b. Block Party, Business Assoc.
    - i. Survey for their Greenway.
    - ii. Good Economic activity along Greenway.
    - iii. High Usage.
    - iv. Form for License Plate fund.
      1. Zero exposure to people – we need marketing.
    - v. Link to DOT site.
    - vi. Model the CGC brochure.
3. KB gave a shout out to Salem Land Trust and Claire Cain!
4. CFPA Update:
  - a. CC indicated Eric (as ED) has gone to DEEP (office of policy & planning)
    - i. CC will serve as interim ED and start recruitment. Please share.

- Public Comments

1. AB indicated that Naugatuck has a Grand Opening Tuesday 10 AM.
  - a. Invite in CHAT.

2. Alan Blasenstein (AB) regarding Website.
  - a. Doesn't get much traffic.
  - b. Requires oversight.
  - c. Social may be better for Sharing.
  - d. BD commented that Facebook as Social is easier to set up.
    - i. Will need protocol.
      1. What is DEEP policy.
    - ii. KB: model to BPAC within DOT web/social.
3. RIDE the STATE is June 24<sup>th</sup>
  - a. Fully subscribed (150 riders) in 5 weeks !!!!

BD adjourned the meeting at 10:30.

Next meeting July 11<sup>th</sup>.

Submitted by Dan Buckley