



Connecticut Greenways Council

Minutes of Meeting

July 11, 2023

Via Zoom

A regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Tuesday, July 11th, 2023 via ZOOM. The agenda was published on the website and invitees prior to the meeting. The July meeting link details, June 13th minutes and July agenda were sent to invite list by Kim Bradley the day prior.

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

Guests attending were: Jay Strange, Bill Boles, Jame Kulpa (VHB), Kyle Casiglio, Norm Berg, Martha Conneely, Christopher Roberts, Nicholas Velseboer, Zbigniew Grabowski, Matt Lieber (SGT) and Dan Buckley (SGT).

- **Call to Order**

Bruce Donald (BD) established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:02. Audio recording was started at 9:02 .

- **Adoption of minutes.**

1. BD indicated that some corrections had been made to the proposed minutes and were included in the meeting invite.
2. Motion to accept by Bob Dickenson (BDi), Bill O'Neill (BO) seconded.
3. Passed unanimously.

- **Chairman's Report** – Bruce Donald (BD)

1. The Legislative session has been completed.
2. Need to start conversations with other partner organizations (CFPA, etc) to get early ideas on issues and topics for next Legislative session.
3. Funding for CRT Grant (\$10M/yr/2 years)
 - a. May show up on bonding meeting in the 3rd week of July for actual funding.
 - b. This would allow for earlier communication and cycle for next round of granting.
 - c. Kim Bradley (KB) sees as "July 28th" on website.
 - i. No agenda yet.
4. Reports that 84 riders participated in Ride Connecticut event on the 24th even in the rain.
 - a. Good turnout considering!
5. VHB working on routes for 4 towns in Capital Area study.
 - a. Simsbury (Tariffville) route to be announced in the fall.
6. Projects:

- a. New Haven moving along.
 - b. Mooseup Valley State Park Trail – 5.5 miles at Bid.
 - c. Southington FCHT awarded (1 mile)
 - i. Excluding “yard metals” area.
 - d. Tunnel under Route 72.
 - e. Jim Kulpa (JK) – VHB.
 - i. 10 PM meeting tonight (07/11)
 - ii. Plainfield meeting tomorrow (07/12).
 - iii. Air Line SP Trail/Putman/Pomfret
 - 1. Assessment complete.
 - 2. Will connect all the bridges.
 - iv. Plainfield sections
 - 1. New Britain “B line Trail” in draft
 - v. Screening work or other projects underway.
 - f. BO: status with Main Moose controversy?
 - i. KB: Moose work is being discussed.
 - g. ANY connections through State Parks need to go through the PROCESS.
 - i. Some trails” jumped the gun”.
- **CTDOT & Bike/Ped Advisory Committee** - Anna Bergeron (AB)
 - 1. Air Line SP Trail Gap Study
 - a. VHB is working on w/DOT.
 - b. Connects to Cheshire.
 - 2. Earmark of \$500K to Middletown for design
 - a. BD: Question on “Aregony bridge”?
 - b. AB: this is under review.
 - 3. Connecticut Conductivity is moving along.
 - 4. “TRIP” program via COGs is underway.
 - a. \$5M/year funding.
 - **DEEP** – Kim Bradley (KB)
 - 1. CT Recreational Trail Grant Contracting underway
 - a. Should see contracts out to award recipients soon.
 - b. Many are currently in Legal review.
 - c. RFP for new round will likely be in the fall.
 - 2. Outreach to COGs
 - a. Kyle, KB, ?...
 - b. There will be a performance rating of Grants by COG by Region available.
 - 3. Laurie G is working on CT Trail Summit with team.
 - a. Visit to 5-Points venue in Torrington, CT.
 - b. October 11-13th SAVE THE DATE.
 - 4. SCORP
 - a. Summary for Survey for “avid recreationalist” is coming.
 - 5. DOT summit with DEEP on ‘Trails Management’
 - a. Focus on collaboration.

- b. AB is aware of this but not part of it.
- **OLD Business - Bruce Donald**
 1. SCORP
 - a. Will schedule with this group to review SCORP process.
 - b. Advisory Committee will meet.
 - c. Survey should be done by end of summer
 2. Plainville II public hearing is July 20th/7PM.
 3. Trail Census/TrailFinder – No Updates.
 4. Greenway Trails Fund – License program.
 - a. RAC cards to be printed soon.
 - b. CT Auto Dealership Assoc are possible distribution route.
 - c. Print ? 10,000?
 - i. KB. Has quote
 1. 5 K ~ \$1000.00
 - ii. Laurie G suggested using Rec Trails funding for printing.
 5. Communications Plan for this CGC.
 - a. Use CRT \$?
 - b. conversation with other groups on possibilities.
 - i. Model DEEP, BPAC for best practices.
 - ii. KB – did have meeting with DEEP communication division (James Fowler) and ready to help.
 - iii. Thinks most communication should come *from* CGC.
 - iv. Look at BPAC website for their approach.
 - v. Dan Buckley offered to help with this sub-team.
- **NEW Business/Public Comments – Bruce Donald opens to participants**
 1. Dan Buckley (Shoreline Greenway Trail) mentioned updates.
 - a. East Haven “Coe Road” section (1.0mile) completed.
 - i. Sharrows and sidewalks.
 - ii. Ribbon cutting date TBD.
 - b. Trolley & Trails series events kick off this weekend in Branford.
 - i. Guilford, East Haven and Madison all have dates through the summer.
 - ii. Check website for details. [Shoreline Greenway Trail: A Better Way from Here to There](#)
 2. Jay Strange (JS) thanked Kim Bradley for coming to their group.
 - a. Will send tri-fold.
 - b. KB mentioned new Grant.
 - i. Public announcement yet?
 - ii. \$4.5M grant for NRVT- >??
 3. Zbigniew Grabowski (ZB) indicated that he had ridden the ECG this weekend
 - a. Wants to learn more about connecting to the Capital region.
 - b. BD indicated he is on the Farmington BPAC.
 - i. They are discussing routing and alt routes around the area by the Farmington UConn Health Center/JugHandle/84.

1. this is very active.
2. Will connect to West Hartford
4. Bob Dickenson (BDi) indicated that the Landscaping for the Tariffville section is well underway.
5. Kyle Casiglio (KC) thanked KB for meeting.
 - a. DOT “Safe Streets for all” – closed yesterday (07/10).
 - i. Route 2 – Willimantic.
 - b. Regional Open Space study will be sent out to group.
 - c. Old Trolley Tracks along route 2 includes to Foxwoods on route 2 ROW.
 - d. 2A/164 are end points.
6. Kim Bradley indicated that the next Connecticut Trails Learning Committee meeting will be in the field with Rob Butterworth given a talk about organization a work party.
 - a. Dan Buckley (DB) elaborated on the purpose, composition and intent of the Connecticut Trails Learning Committee and invited all to attend and bring topics to network with others.

BD adjourned the meeting at 10:06.

NO MEETING IN AUGUST.
Next meeting September 12th.

Submitted by Dan Buckley