



Connecticut Greenways Council

Minutes of Meeting

September 12, 2023

Via Teams

A regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Tuesday, September 12th, 2023 via ZOOM. The agenda was published on the website and invitees prior to the meeting. The September meeting link details, July minutes and September agenda were sent to the invitation list by Kim Bradley the day prior.

Present were council members: Bruce Donald (Chair), Rista Malanca, Lois Bruinooge, Paula Burton, Bob Dickenson, William O'Neill, Cathy Hagadorn, Claine Cain and Ex-Officio member Kim Bradley.

Guests attending were: Bill Boles, James Kulpa (VHB), Nicholas Velseboer, Norm Berg, Martha Conneely, Christopher Roberts, Zbigniew Grabowski, Jay Annis, Kevin Sullivan, Akiebia Hicks, Emily Wilson, Jeb Stevens, Christine O'Neill, Caitlin Palmer, Mark McCarthy, Bob ('guest') and Dan Buckley (SGT).

- **Call to Order**

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

- **Adoption of minutes.**

1. Motion to accept by Bill O'Neill (BO) and Paula Burton (PB) seconded.
2. The motion was passed unanimously.

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

1. Projects:
 - a. FCHT – New Haven. Canal St. from Yale to Orange St. almost done.
 - b. Tariffville/Hartford connection Phase 1 now paved. Almost done.
 - i. Will connect with ECG into Bloomfield.
 - c. Moosup Valley Trail, Plainfield to Sterling ground broken.

Meetings and conversations with other partner organizations (CTBPAC, DOT, DEEP, Bike/walk CT, etc) to get early ideas on issues and topics for next Legislative session.

- d. Sandy Fry (CTBPAC) had indicated that redefining age limits for E-Bike use.
 - e. **ACTION**: please get to BD items that need to be addressed in next session.
2. Funding for CRT Grant (\$10M/yr/2 years)
 - a. Still waiting for formal approval by Bonding committee with a possible meeting this month.

- i. Kim Bradley (KB) indicated that DOT(?) has sent a letter requesting it to be on the agenda.
- **CTDOT** – Chris Roberts (CR) from CTDOT Careers Training introduced himself. He works with Anna Bergeron.
 1. Links were added for Complete Streets “Design Criteria”
 2. BD indicated that the new iteration of the 2024 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN should be supported as DOT starts the process.

Discussion on SCORP development.

1. PB indicated that this is a comprehensive plan and needs measures as well as ensuring all entities follow SCORP guidelines.
2. KB indicated that DEEP is in conversation with DOT on linking plans.
 - a. DEEP is deciding if a revision to SCORP(?)
 - b. In conversations regarding Vehicle Miles Reduction program.
3. BD indicated that there was a lot of coordination among groups.
4. KB mentioned new “Assistant Director of Parks” Jeremy Hall, previously from East Hampton.

Introduction of Guest, Akiebia Hicks- (AH), Durational Project Manager with DEEP

Email: akiebia.hicks@ct.gov.

1. Charged with updating SCORP (State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
2. Looking for more comprehensive process across ALL user groups (Land Trusts, municipalities, other Non-Profits, etc.) ; not so much DEEP centric.
3. 3 surveys will inform process.
4. Advisory committee expanded to include more groups on needs.
5. **Requested** for people to reach out on any input or questions.

BD indicated that he was very pleased with Akiebia’s role and approach.

KB will review process with AH and team will use. Has drafted Recreational Trail section and will include updates.

AH wants to show a draft of SCORP at a public session.

The first draft will be reviewed by advisory committee and the 2nd draft will be more public.

Wants to include PHOTO from anyone. Will be at Trails Symposium.

- **OLD Business**

1. CRT (KB)
 - a. The majority of contracts are complete or sent.
 - i. Final reviews for others are being done.
 - ii. Should be out by October using the new template.
 - b. The contract process
 - i. Application is selected.

- ii. CRT to Develop Scope of Work using template.
 - 1. Work with Monique Powell.
 - iii. Financial reviews to ensure alignment.
 - iv. Final Legal review.
 - v. Monique sends out to applicants.
 - vi. Applicant makes their review, returns to DEEP
 - vii. Mike Lambert (DEEP) signs off.
 - viii. Legal review again.
 - ix. Formal legislative sign off.
 - c. Indicated the “Match” has a 18 month ‘look-back’ period.
 - d. Applicants should NOT spend until FINAL approval.
- BD indicated that Rhode Island wants to mimic rec trails program like ours.
2. Trail Symposium updates [Connecticut Trail Symposium | Connecticut Trails \(uconn.edu\)](#)
Rista Malanca (RM).
 - a. Partnering with Town of Torrington (birthplace of John Brown)
 - b. 4 day event Oct 10th-13th
 - i. Tuesday – Film fest \$25 at Warner Theatre
 - ii. Wednesday – Mobile clinics. Combination of self-guided and instructor led.
 - iii. Thursday – “Why we walk’ documentary.
 - iv. Friday – Symposium with multiple sessions/speakers/sponsors/tables.
 - c. Does require \$\$
 - i. Sponsorships are being solicited – check website for details.
3. Trail Census/Trail Finder – Emily Wilson (EW)
 - a. Mentioned Aaron and Adelheid’s work on the Temporary Trail Census program.
 - b. New data/dashboard coming.
 - c. Trail finder working with Land Trusts to get into trail finder.
 - d. Attending and presenting at Symposium.
4. Greenway Trails Fund – License program.
 - a. KB update on DOT sweep of \$
 - b. Rack cards for the Symposium
5. Communications Plan for this CGC. BD
 - a. Need to get in motion.
 - b. Funding? Use Grants for new website?
 - c. KB indicated there may be a new State Parks website launching soon.
 - d. **ACTION**: please offer feedback on content.
- **NEW Business/Public Comments** – BD opens to Claire Cain/Jeb Stevens
 - 1. Claire Cain (CFPA) and Jeb Stevens (CFPA - Trail Protection Coordinator) discussed PA-23-207 concerning trail protection and tax abatement.
 - a. jstevens@ctwoodlands.org
 - b. Info sheet was shared in the INVITE by KB.
 - i. Looking for feedback.
 - ii. Don’t share yet until final version. ? end of month, next CGC meeting?

- c. This is the first in the US.
- d. Individual municipalities NEED to adopt this for it to be used.
- e. HOW to get this message out.
 - i. COG's, CCM
- f. CFPA still interviewing for Executive Director.

Next meeting will shift to October 17th due to Symposium. KB will update invite and calendars.

BD adjourned the meeting at 10:30.

Submitted by Dan Buckley