



Connecticut Greenways Council

Minutes of Meeting

November 14, 2023

Via Zoom

A regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Tuesday, November 14th, 2023 via ZOOM. The November meeting link details, October minutes and agenda were sent to invite list by Kim Bradley the day prior.

Present were council members: Bruce Donald (Chair), Rista Malanca, Lois Bruinooge, Paula Burton, Bob Dickenson, Claine Cain, Gillian Carroll, Cathy Hagadorn, Stacey Sterns and Ex-Officio members Anna Bergeron & Kim Bradley.

Guests attending were: Bill Boles, James Kulpa (VHB), Nicholas Velseboer, Norm Berg, Martha Conneely, Christopher Roberts, Zbigniew Grabowski, Jay Annis, Emily Wilson, Caitlin Palmer, Kate Rattan, Eyitayo Olaleye and Dan Buckley (SGT).

- **Call to Order**

Bruce Donald (BD) established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:05.
Audio recording was started by Kim Bradley (KB).

- **Adoption of minutes.**

1. Motion to accept by Bob Dickenson (Bdi) and Stacey Sterns (SS) seconded.
2. The motion was passed unanimously.

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

1. BD has had a lot of meetings and events with other partner organizations (BikeWalkCT, missed NHCAT, SGT, etc.)
2. Legislation:
 - a. CT Outdoor Rec Alliance meeting last week with DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes.
 - i. An office of Director of Outdoor Experience has been established.
 1. Economic Activity, Resource Protection
 2. Opportunity for State to establish Public/Private partnerships.
 - b. Confluence Accord
 - i. 16 states have adopted; CT not yet.
 - c. Discussed capacity needs of DEEP.
 - i. Needs annual \$\$ increase for staffing parks.
 - d. Bikeway CT – Sandy Fry.
 - i. Potential E-Bikes guidelines
 1. 16 year old minimum
 2. Ban of Cat 3 on Trails.

- e. BD is looking for other needs and input to get early ideas on issues and topics for next Legislative session.
- f. Coordination with REI across state.

ACTION: please get to BD, KB items that need to be addressed in next leg. session.

3. Projects:

- a. FCHT meeting.
 - i. Southington-Plainville challenges.
 - ii. Verbal OK for DOT to acquire ROW along trails.
 - iii.
- **CT DOT BPAC – Anna Bergeron (AB)**
 - 1. Community Connectivity 1st round grants (\$11.7M) made available.
 - a. List of town were mentioned.
 - 2. TRIP/RULE communities later this year.
 - 3. “Airline” section in Middletown started.
 - a. \$500K grant (CT Earmark) for design, (KB) also attended the field audit.
 - b. Multiple other grants
- **DEEP - Kim Bradley (KB)**

Will keep her updates in Old Business as indicated in Agenda.
- **OLD Business**
 - 1. CT Greenways Nominations (KB)
 - a. Woodbridge Greenway Experience – Kim sent out an overview.
 - i. (KB) indicated that the Application was well done and overall a good candidate.
 - ii. (Bdi) made a motion to ACCEPT to receive award, (SS) seconded.
 - 1. Unanimously accepted.
 - 2. Rec Trails Grant Timeline (KB)
 - a. Sub-committee met.
 - b. Minor changes to grant application.
 - c. Planning early Dec '23 timing for release of RFP.
 - d. Planning a WEBINAR for Thursday, Jan 11th 1 PM for training. This will be mentioned in RFP.
 - e. Existing contracts has seen some slight changes as template has been modified.
 - 3. Connecticut Trails Symposium (KB)
 - a. Looking for 2024 Event host.
 - b. Survey results (not a lot of responses) indicate 4.5 of 5.0 rating.
 - c. Want to look for better coordination between DOT and DEEP.
 - d. Start 2024 event sub-committee in Early Jan 2024.
 - 4. SCORP (KB)
 - 1. There was a meeting last Monday.
 - 2. Draft SCORP to be posted.
 - 3. Good feedback from team.
 - 4. Akiebia is doing great work.

5. Included more info on whats already been done.
6. (KB) indicated that there should be a press release on the SCORP website.
5. CT Census/TrailFinder – Emily Wilson (EW)
 - a. Newsletter went out. Items highlighted.
 - b. Temporary counters continue to be used in different locations for 3-5 weeks.
 - c. Trail Finder being updated.
 - d. Next meeting, Jan.

(BD) indicated there was a need for a 1-pager for the Temporary Counter program.

(EW) was hesitant due to limited capacity to support. It was put in newsletter.

Dan Buckley (DB) mentioned that the Newsletter was extremely well done and a great resource to share with others.

6. Greenways License Plate Fund (BD).
 - a. Laurie Gianatti is working on the Rack Cards. Dept of Corrections is helping.
 - i. Jeremy Hall is pending approval
 - ii. 5K Rack Cards could be printed for ~\$5K. Paid by CT Lic Plate funds.
 - b. Need to agree on where they 'go'. Automobile Dealers association of CT. others??
 - c. WHAT to do with Funds? This is an item for Jan meeting.
7. Communications Plan for this CGC. (BD)
 - a. January meeting.
 - b. Needs sub-committee.

- **NEW Business/Public Comments** – (BD) opens.

1. Dan Buckley indicated that the 146 CMP public meeting was tonight in Guilford.
2. Jay Annis asked about the status of the NRVT Grant (\$4.5 M)
 - a. (BD) indicated they had their Annual Meeting tonight and also has a call into Andrea (NRVT ED).
3. (Bdi) indicated the latest section of the ECG ribbon cutting was Friday in Bloomfield/Simsbuy 11:00 by the Gazebo in Tariffville. Old Andrews Church.

Bruce thanked all for a great year and concluded the meeting at 11:08AM.

Next Meeting Jan 9 NO December meeting

Updated schedule has been sent by (KB).

Submitted by Dan Buckley 11/21/23