



Connecticut Greenways Council

Minutes of Meeting

January 09, 2024

Via Zoom

A regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Tuesday, January 9th, 2024 via ZOOM. The meeting link details, prior 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), Norm Berg, Martha Conneely, Jay Annis, Emily Wilson, Jerney Hall, Christine O'Neill, Marc McCarthy and Dan Buckley (SGT).

- **Call to Order**

Audio recording was started by Kim Bradley (KB).

Bruce Donald (BD) established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

- **Adoption of minutes.**

1. Motion to accept by Rista Malanca (RM) and Bob Dickenson (RD) seconded.
2. The motion was passed unanimously.

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

1. CT Outdoor Recreation Association (CORA) through REI is hosting sessions for small legislative gathering for bike and pedestrian based topics. Paula Burton noted and encourage members to attend. Legislators and state officials will attend. Next is Thurs. Jan 18 at 4 PM in West Hartford, CT
2. Nothing major anticipated within next session. ROW Acquisitions of DOT, Attorney General has adjusted decisions approval of acquisitions for trail projects.
3. The Moosup Valley Trail is being developed by CTDOT, 5 ½ miles. Anticipate finishing construction this year. Sterling: Possible site for Symposium.
4. New Haven: Phase IV Canal St to Orange St. should be completed by next April.
5. Quinapaug Trail: Killingly, Need some guidance on direction
6. Hartford Corridor: Tariffville I, Completed; II, approved.

(Caitlin Palmer) added to chat and advised that Simbury Board had approved the final report but still need public comment.

There are other updates.

CRCOG updates:

Regional Network of Complete Streets – will release RFP for Prioritization Study.

- **CT DOT BPAC** – Anna Bergeron (AB)
 1. Connection Study Kick-off w/ DOT + DEEP for the Central Connecticut Loop
 2. DOT has new Active Transportation Unit that Anna will lead.
 - a. They are now hiring staff.
 3. Christopher Roberts will now replace her on the CGC council group.
 4. Starting a new Trail Inventory Program – Stay Tuned.
(Bruce Donald) – will there be an associated Maintenance Program.
 5. Launching an Active Transportation Plan soon. Finishing up Scoping Section.

Bruce Donald Thanked Anna for all her efforts and Congratulations!

Bob Dickenson indicated that state monies will go to towns for Maintenance but needs to specify what % must be allocated to trails specifically.

6. State DOT is now required to include Sidewalks, Bikelanes, etc in all new projects and need to include Maintenance solutions.

Jay Annis went back to Land Acquisition suit issue.

Bruce Donald indicated that it was still in negotiation (Southington II).

Kim Bradley asked for the status of the Active Transportation Plan and Anna indicated it was still to be rolled out.

- **DEEP - Kim Bradley**
 1. Connecticut Recreation Trails Grant Program (CRT) was announced, and people are asked to register for the Webinar this Thursday (11th).
 - Applications will be due March 11th.
 - Jeremy Hall will be assisting in the process.
 - Working with a team to make the Grant process easier.
 2. The SCORP was submitted on time and Akiebia Hicks was a big help.
 3. There was a meeting with the Hop River Trail Alliance for clarification on Maintenance and signage responsibilities, by town, and this will be agreed by end of year.
 4. There will be a public walk on the Nepaug State Forest trail on Jan 19th at 2:30 to look at “authorized trails”.
- **OLD Business**
 1. CRT
 - a. Kim Bradley indicated that the Grant team training is happening.
 - i. Expecting MORE applications this year.

Bruce Donald indicated that there is a need for more staffing for these activities and there are discussions underway.
 2. CT Census/TrailFinder – Emily Wilson
 - a. Advisory Council meeting was held.
 - i. Short term counter data will be added to dashboard.
 - ii. Assessing how this program went.

- b. Trail Finder
 - i. Woodridge Greenway Project is a good example of a multi-trail section.
 - ii. Approx. 1500 miles of trails now included.
 - iii. Adding DEEP + Land Trust trails.
- c. They will attend the CLCC meeting and present.
- d. FHCT additions have been added including on and off-road sections.
- e. Piloted Training for Avenza Map at the end of the month is planned plus another one.
 - i. Kim Bradley is looking to see how the Park Managers can get trained.
- f. Outreach is continuing.

Bruce Donald urged all to look at the Woodbridge section on how Multi-section trails are handled.

3. Greenways License Plate Fund

- a. Kim Bradley advises that a way to receive \$\$ updates has been requested.
 - i. Currently approx. \$ 6033.15 is available.

Bruce Donald suggested that this could be used for a ‘small grant’ program as this was a past program.

- ii. 5K Rack Cards have been ordered. No date on timing.
- iii. Bruce Donald has a contact with Automobile Dealers association of CT.

Bill O’Neill suggested to partner with DMV and include in registrations.

Jay Annis indicated that he ordered his plate and still waiting...

- a. Need a group to disseminate rack cards, car dealers and DMV locations and reprint approach.

4. Symposium.

- a. 2023 Symposium.
 - i. Was a big success. Some payments are still pending.
 - ii. Kim Bradley indicated that a Final Report was needed.
 - iii. Bruce Donald recognized some of the challenges with budgeting using the UConn system although it worked ok.
 - 1. Emily Wilson requested that there is notification as to WHO will need to be paid in advance and make a planning process
- b. Rista Malanca suggested to use a Rolling Line Budget for tracking year on year.
- c. 2024 Symposium.
 - i. Bruce Donald indicated to set up a meeting in the next 30 days for planning.
 - 1. Rista will help coordinate a planning meeting.

- **NEW Business/Public Comments** – Bruce Donald opened.

- 1. Dan Buckley: status of FAQ sheet that was being developed by Jeb Stevens for review by the CGC?
 - a. Bruce suggested contacting Claire Cain and cc Jeb. for an update.
 - b. Dan will do and report back to Bruce.

2. Bill O'Neill: Prior design of the Merritt Parkway, by the Connecticut Bureau of Highways, had included a RIGHT of WAY for a trail section and this ROW is owned by CT residents.
 - a. Can this be activated or renewed?
3. Bruce Donald: \$\$ items.
 - a. Symposium, Website, Awards Ceremony, might be able to use License Plate funds.
4. Greenways Awards, Bruce Donald
 - a. Possible candidate for the DOT trail to be completed this year as the Moose Up Valley Trail.
 - b. Bill O'Neill indicated that this would be the 20th anniversary of the "spike driving" along the CT/RI line – he still has the spike...
 - c. Ceremony will be May 31st. Need a venue.
 - d. Need to put out a call for nominations. Should this process be reviewed/revised?
 - i. Do we do too many? What is optimal?
 - ii. Prior an internal process. Should this process be more transparent?
 - iii. Need a committee/structure
 - iv. Kim Bradley indicated CT Rec and Parks Association has a call for awards, may be able to model with deciding awards.
 - v. Categories? Volunteers, Organizations, other (un-sung hero, etc?)
 - e. Kim Bradley indicated that the Greenways REC cards had been printed and are available.
 - f. Martha Conneley (Riverside Recapture) www.riverfront.org. indicated that there was an event Saturday Jan 13th.
 - i. This is striving to be a regional resource.
 - ii. Construction timing – Fall 2024. Currently in permitting process.

Bruce thanked all and concluded the meeting at 10:53.

Next Meeting: Feb 13th

Submitted by Dan Buckley 01/09/24