



## Connecticut Greenways Council

Minutes of Meeting  
February 13th, 2024  
Via Zoom

A regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Tuesday, February 13th, 2024 via ZOOM. The meeting link details, prior minutes and agenda were sent to the invite list by Kim Bradley prior.

Present were council members: Bruce Donald (Chair), Rista Malanca, Paula Burton, Bob Dickenson, Cathy Hagadorn, Stacey Sterns, Ex-Officio member; Kim Bradley and Christopher Roberts representing Anna Bergeron.

Guests attending were: Jay Annis, Norm Berg, Bill Boles, Dan Buckley (SGT), Martha Conneely (Riverfront Recapture), James Kulpa (VHB), Christine O'Neill (NVCOG), Jeb Stevens (CFPA), Emily Wilson (UConn Clear) and "Kate" (guest).

- **Call to Order**

Bruce Donald (BD) established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:03 am. Audio recording was started by Kim Bradley (KB).

- **Adoption of minutes.**

1. Motion to accept by Paula (PB), Rista (RM) seconded.
2. The motion was passed unanimously.

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

1. Upcoming National Bike Summit in DC.
  - a. BD is attending and will be working with the various legislators and organizations.
  - b. PB suggested attention to "Natural Surface" initiatives and trail for CT.
2. Legislative Issues.
  - a. CT will have a short session.
  - b. BD met with 3 legislators.
  - c. Tee-ing up of next year; interest in establishing a number of 'caucuses' ie "BIKE-PED Caucus", etc.
3. Met with the new Hartford Mayor, Arunan Arulampalam.
  - a. Discussed routing through Hartford.
  - b. Gap Study by CROG, several routes possible.
4. Jim Kulpa (VHB – bike trail consultant to CTDOT)
  - a. Shared screen from DOT website
    - i. <https://fhiplan.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=48b41d2822a0476996def72610db2e0a>
  - b. Jim reviewed many sections and provided updates

- c. There is a helpful “Statewide Multiuse Trails” layer.
  - d. Discussion on some specific sections.
- **CT DOT BPAC** – Christopher Roberts(CR) sitting in for Anna Bergeron.
  1. (Chris is a team leader for DOT)
  2. CR will be joining Bruce in DC.
  3. BD has met with Anna on the creation of the Active Transportation team in DOT.
- **DEEP - Kim Bradley (KB)**
  - 1) Introducing Tenia Seay ([Tenia.Seay@ct.gov](mailto:Tenia.Seay@ct.gov)), who will be helping with the 2024 Recreational Trails Grant program.
  - 2) The program is currently open.
    - a) Use the Storyboard for questions.
    - b) KB office hours for questions: 11:30-12:30 daily.
    - c) Include Tenia email on correspondence.
  - 3) General discussion on specific trails.
    - a) Neapaug
    - b) One identified with some non-compliant construction to be remedied.
  - 4) 2023 CRT contracts are mostly out.
    - a) Emphasized need for Quarterly Reporting by grant recipient.
  - 5) Legislative Linkages on-going.
- **OLD Business**
  1. CRT
    - a. Grant team training set for Feb 23rd
  2. CT Census/TrailFinder – Emily Wilson
    - a. All census data has been collected.
      - i. Calibration factors are going to be updated.
      - ii. Data being added to Dashboard.
      - iii. “Annual Count Report” forthcoming.
    - b. Avenza mapping app for users training was held with another planned for late spring.  
KB gave a shout out to the CLEAR team and efforts.
  3. Greenways License Plate Program
    - a. BD indicated has met with CT Automotive Association.
      - i. Need to do same with CTDMV to distribute cards.
    - b. Have initial supply of RAC cards for use! Can print more.
    - c. Jay Annis(JA) advised that GETTING requested plates can take along time
    - d. Funds used to reimburse 2023 Symposium expenses.
    - e. Need a routine sweep for \$\$ collected by the program.
    - f. Cards should be included in the next CTDMV registrations.
  4. Greenways Fund Small Grant Program
    - a. KB provided the governing document (23-101)for CGC/DEEP administration of the organization.  
[Chapter 454 - Greenways and Bikeways \(ct.gov\)](#)
    - b. RM commented re: DOT Microtransit Grant Process

5. Communication Plan/Website/Social Media
  - a. Probably to start after this round of grants
  - b. Need to set a date in JUNE to start planning.
6. 2024 Greenways Awards
  - a. May 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - b. Need Venue for about 1 hour.
  - c. Nominations ?
    - i. Woodbridge?
    - ii. Riverfront Recapture?  
(<https://riverfront.org/events/communityworkshop/>)
7. 2024 Connecticut Trails Symposium
  - a. To Join the CT Trail Symposium Planning Committee please email Kim and Rista ( kimberly.bradley@ct.gov and rmalanca@northwesthillscog.org )
  - b. Tentative Oct 4<sup>th</sup> depending on Venue requirements.
    - i. A Friday is best.
  - c. Looking for a venue (?Manchester, Goodwin?)
  - d. RM indicate the sub team was meeting later in the day.

- **NEW Business**

1. Discussion on 2023 Legislation 23-207 “Tax Abatement for Trail Easements”
  - a. Jeb Stevens indicated that the CFPA was using an approach that focused on looking for a (likely) ‘successful’ candidate in both the town and possible applicant for any initial use of this legislation. This will establish a successful track record to build.
  - b. Dan Buckley indicated that this was a Statewide opportunity and could be approached strategically to consider a wider range of possible municipalities and properties.
  - c. BD indicated the bill language talked about Easements.  
See links offered in the CHAT.  
LEGISLATION:  
<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/act/pa/pdf/2023PA-00207-R00SB-00998-PA.pdf>  
CRCOG fact sheet:  
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1?ui=2&ik=2b263fad54&attid=0.1&permmmsgid=msg-f:1790981143501820336&th=18dad7dc69d951b0&view=att&disp=inline>
  - d. JA asked if this was retro-active. BD indicated not likely.

- **Public Comment**

1. PB added a link to CORA events
  - a. <https://mailchi.mp/97ed514d0d8f/cora-campaign-update-mar-17628572?e=651b9db43d>
2. KB indicated that the next meeting of the Connecticut Trails Learning Community would cover *Trail Alliance Organizations*.
  - a. Meeting will be Feb 28<sup>th</sup>. 2PM
  - b. Let Kim know if you want to attend – open to all.

- c. Dan Buckley indicated that a number of Trail Alliances AND some of the individual towns/trail that make up the Alliance would share experiences and shared the topic outline.

*What are Trail Alliances and How do they fit with individual trails?*

- *Trail systems often including 2 or more local, individual trails.*

*Examples:*

- a) *CT: NRVT, Airline Trail, NVT, FCHT/FRT*
- b) *National: East Coast Greenway, Ohio-to-Erie (O2E)*
- c) *Non-contiguous systems (?)*

- *Considerations:*

- a) *Trail Alliance Value and Contribution*
- b) *Local Trail Identity, Autonomy, Responsibilities*
- c) *Signage*
- d) *Mapping*
- e) *Communication & Outreach*
- f) *GRANT applications*
- g) *Political liason*
- h) *ETC.*

- d. Bob Dickenson indicated that Bloomfield and other towns are now requiring Sidewalks/Trails to be included in new development plans.

Bruce thanked all and concluded the meeting at 10:41.

Next Meeting: Mar 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 9:00

Submitted by Dan Buckley 02/18/24