



Connecticut Greenways Council

Minutes of Meeting

March 12th, 2024

Via Zoom

A regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Tuesday, March 12th, 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), Lois Bruinooge, Claire Cain, Bob Dickenson, Bill O'Neill, Stacey Sterns, Ex-Officio member; Kim Bradley and Christopher Roberts representing Anna Bergeron.

Guests attending were: Jay Annis, Paul Ashforth, Norm Berg, Alan Blasenstein, Bill Boles, Dan Buckley (SGT), Aaron Budris (NVCOG), Devin Clark, Martha Conneely (Riverfront Recapture), Dick Dostal, Delia Fry, Ron Goralski (Hop River Trail), James Kulpa (VHB), Linsay Naughton, Emily Wilson (UConn Clear) and "Paila" (guest).

- **Call to Order**

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

- **Adoption of minutes.**

1. Motion to accept by Stacey (SS), Bob (BDi) seconded.
2. The motion was passed unanimously.

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

1. Legislative: not a whole lot.
 - a. HB 5485 concerning electric vehicles.
 - i. should EBikes be included?
 - ii. Discussion.
2. East Coast Greenway (ECG) – CROG
 - a. Connector – greater HTFD area.
 - b. Discussion on various sections.
 - c. Should have planned routing through the HTFD area by this year!!
 - d. ~~\$80M
3. Upcoming National Bike Summit in DC.
 - a. BD is attending and will be meeting with the Federal and State legislators and organizations.
 - b. BD asked for suggestions for Earmarks as these are again open for consideration.
4. Project Discussion – multiple updates.

- **CT DOT BPAC** – Christopher Roberts(CR) sitting in for Anna Bergeron.
 1. New member for the Alt Trans unit – Paul Ashworth
 2. CR will be joining Bruce in DC.
 3. DOT Micro Grant program is now open and being administered by the COGs.
 - a. <https://portal.ct.gov/DOT/CTDOT-Press-Releases/2024/CTDOT-Launches-New-Active-Transportation-Microgrant-Program#:~:text=The%20Active%20Transportation%20Microgrant%20Program,including%20to%20and%20from%20schools.>
 - b. <\$5K requests.
 - c. Rolling funding, first come, first served until exhausted.
 - d. No more than 2 requests/year/org.
 4. Discussion on HTFD section with uncertain responsibility. He will work with Martha C, Kim and Bruce.
 5. Bissell Bridge project and closure to Bike/Ped lane while underway.
 - a. <https://portal.ct.gov/DOT/CTDOT-Press-Releases/2024/Rehabilitation-of-the-Bissell-Bridge-between-South-Windsor-and-Windsor>

- **DEEP - Kim Bradley (KB)**
 1. 2024 Recreational Trails Grant program.
 - a) The program closed.
 - i. 82 External applications (86 total), ~\$20M in requests.
 - ii. Include Tenia email (tenia.seay@ct.gov) on correspondence.
 - b) Broad diversity of project requests.
 - i. COGs, Land Trusts, Colleges/Universities, etc
 - c) Initial review and scoring underway by sub-team.
 - d) Coordination between DEEP & DOT (& VHB).
 - i. Some fall into DOT realm.
 - e) Timing and schedule has been set.
 - i. April 25th, May 2nd final reviews. Setting ranking Lo/M/Hi.
 - ii. May CGC internal announcements
 - f) Strong coordination between DOT & DEEP.
 - i. Helps kick-start LOTCIP projects.

- **OLD Business**
 1. CT Census/TrailFinder – Emily Wilson
 - a. Just published report by students on Trail Finder.
 - b. 1st Nature Conservatory Postings.
 - i. Chapmans Pond, Montville, several CFPA
 - c. New Student Intern. Will be working on Commercial linkages.
 - i. Commercial Services
 - ii. Contact Emily
 - iii. Setting up Guidance Document – what type of services wanted, accepted, listed. How. Distance from trail, ONLY basic detail, no hours, ads.
 - d. Trail Census
 - i. 2023 Dashboard Finalized.
 2. Greenways License Plate Program (BD)

- a. RAC cards for distribution.
 - i. Cards could be included in the next CTDMV registrations and “brochure area” at locations.
 - ii. CT Automotive Association contacted.
- b. Need a routine sweep for \$\$ collected by the program.
3. Greenways Fund Small Grant Program
 - a. \$6336.00
 - b. KB couldn’t find “origination document” from 14 years ago that enabled funding.
 - i. Should be able to find Legislative statute that enables council.
 - ii. Need a working document.
4. Communication Plan/Website/Social Media
 - a. Pending.
 - b. Need to set a date in JUNE to start planning.
5. 2024 Greenways Awards
 - a. May 31st. 10:00AM.
 - b. Boathouse venue!
 - i. <https://riverfront.org/riverside-park/>
 - ii. Greater Hartford Jaycees Community Boathouse 20 Leibert Road, Hartford, CT
 - iii. The proximity of this location will allow easier access from our legislative colleagues.
 - c. Nominations coming in! Stacey will also be submitting one.
 - d. Multiple categories available: Communities, professionals, Unsung hero, etc, etc.
6. 2024 Connecticut Trails Symposium
 - a. Tentative Oct 4th depending on Venue requirements.
 - b. Looking for a venue (?Manchester Bill O’Niell, Goodwin?)
 - c. Symposium Planning Committee is holding meetings.
 - d. Agenda:
 - i. Keynote speaker?
 - ii. Forum topics? Trail Alliances? Others?

- **NEW Business**

1. NOMINATION of Farm River Greenway (East Haven)
 - a. Discussion and PPT by KIM (submitted by Chris Sullivan, Exec Dir SWCCD)
 - b. Council members will get PPT and vote by next meeting

- **Public Comment**

1. Clair Cain (CC) indicated that the Connecticut Trails Day (June 1st) was planned and open for applications.
 - a. [CT Trails Day - Connecticut Forest and Park Association \(ctwoodlands.org\)](http://ctwoodlands.org)
 - b. By April.
 - c. This is the largest in any state.
2. Dan Buckley (DB) indicated that there had been a large Public Meeting held in New Haven for the new sections connecting Shoreline Greenway Trail and FCHT and ECG within the larger New Haven trail systems.
 - a. [New Haven trail system connecting to the Shoreline Greenway Trail!](#)

Bruce thanked all and concluded the meeting at 10:18.

Next Meeting: Apr 9th, 2024 9:00

Submitted by Dan Buckley 03/16/24