



# Connecticut Greenways Council

Minutes of Meeting

April 9th, 2024

Via Zoom

A regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 via Microsoft Teams. 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, Claire Cain, Bob Dickenson, Bill O'Neill, Stacey Sterns, Marc Weibergen and Officio member; Kim Bradley and Christopher Roberts.

Guests attending were: Jay Annis, Christy Bannish, Norm Berg, Alan Blasenstein, Dan Buckley (SGT), William Champagne, Devin Clark, Martha Conneely (Riverfront Recapture), Delia Fry, Christine O'Neill, Caitlin Palmer and "unknown user".

- **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).

New Connecticut Greenways Council member Marc Weinberg (806-568-2388) was introduced and welcomed to the committee.

- **Adoption of minutes.**

1. Discussion: Dan Buckley indicated that the minutes now contain LINKs to any events/info that the speakers wish to publish and were found in the chat during the meeting.
2. Motion to accept by Bob (BDi) and Paula Burton (PB), seconded.
3. The motion was passed with 1 abstention.

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

1. BD was in Washington past week. Meetings with Leg leaders and other organizations.
  - a. Meeting with Joe Courtney on Quinapaug River Trail; \$2M project.
  - b. Meeting with Andy Bicking CFPA
2. East Coast Greenway (ECG) has hired a NY/NJ mgr.
  - a. Sofia Verndarian, starting May 6<sup>th</sup>.
3. Projects:
  - a. New Haven looking for funding for Yale to Orange St.
  - b. Moose-up Valley Trail – July
  - c. Southington – ready to pave by July.
  - d. North Southington, pending.
  - e. Plainville I (south) - Proceeding well.

- f. New Britain East-West B-Line funded.
    - i. Connects in Plainville.
  - g. Columbia (question by Bill O'Neill)
    - i. No update available.
  - h. Dates:
    - i. May 19<sup>th</sup> Bike Week.
    - ii. June 8<sup>th</sup> Ride the State.
- **CT DOT BPAC – Christopher Roberts (CR)**
  - 1. Roll-out of funding for Micro grants via the COGs.
    - a. Many applications.
- **DEEP - Kim Bradley (KB)**
  - 1. 2024 Recreational Trails Grant program.
    - a) About 50% complete for initial review and scoring.
      - i. Very high-quality applications.
    - b) For Existing Grantees
      - i. Work with Seana for reporting.
      - ii. KB to give PB access for viewing and resend LINK to committee members.
    - c) Next Steps; sub team Meetings
      - i. Apr 25<sup>th</sup> ½ day meeting @ CFP
      - ii. May 2<sup>nd</sup> AM meeting loc TBD.
    - d) Projects being flagged for DOT review.
  - 2. “Sky’s The Limit” program
    - a) State Forest focus
      - i. [DEEP Announces 2024 Skys the Limit Hiking and Walking Challenge \(ct.gov\)](https://www.ct.gov/deep/pressrel/2024/04/24/2024-Skys-the-Limit-Hiking-and-Walking-Challenge)
      - ii. [Sky’s The Limit Hiking Challenge | Connecticut State Parks and Forests \(ctparks.com\)](https://www.ctparks.com/sky-the-limit-hiking-challenge)
- **OLD Business**
  - 1. CT Census/TrailFinder – KB reported for Emily Wilson
    - a. Will be scheduling advisory meeting soon.
  - 2. Greenways License Plate Program (BD)
    - a. BD discovered that dealers can’t ‘order’ these plates to their location as they can with other specialty plates.
    - b. RAC cards for distribution. Need to get out.
      - i. Bill Oneill suggested to model on the Long Island distribution program.
      - ii. Get into the DMV mailing envelopes.
      - iii. Have for the AWARDS ceremony.
      - iv. Distribute to other organization events.
  - 3. Greenways Fund Small Grant Program
    - a. KB – original leg remit does provide for the program.
  - 4. Communication Plan/Website/Social Media
    - a. Need to set a date in JUNE to start planning.
    - b. Claire Cain suggested CFPA best Practice for model strategy and overall plan for Website, Social, Outreach, etc.

5. 2024 Greenways Awards
  - a. May 31<sup>st</sup>. 10:00AM.
  - b. Boathouse venue!
    - i. <https://riverfront.org/riverside-park/>
  - c. ALL council members are to nominate additional nominees for categories.
    - i. Kim to send LINK of previous Winners.
  - d. Confirm AWARDS by May Meeting.
6. 2024 Connecticut Trails Symposium
  - a. Tentative Oct 4<sup>th</sup> depending on Venue requirements.
    - i. Rista to followup on venue.
    - ii. Manchester Community College lead candidate.
  - b. BD asked for “WHAT DO PEOPLE WANT TO SEE, HEAR ABOUT and have at this event.
7. VOTE on current nomination for GREENWAYS designation.
  - a. Rarm River Greenway nominee.
    - i. Kim reviewed the overview.
    - ii. Bill O’Neill motioned to approve. Bob D 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - iii. Passed unanimously.

- **NEW Business**

1. None offered.

- **Public Comment**

1. Martha Connelly – Riverfront Recapture – Hartford.
  - a. Dates
    - i. May 4<sup>th</sup> Chat/Public Walking Tour.
      1. <https://riverfront.org/events/community-walking-tour/>
    - ii. May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.
    - iii. May 31<sup>st</sup> Greenways Awards -50 people expected.
  - b. Construction update for River Project.
    - i. Need another NDDDB study.
  - c. Trail Camera Counters in place.
    - i. Synch data to IR counters.
2. Dan Buckley Shoreline Greenway Trail.
  - a. Their 2024 Internship Program is now open and looking for summer candidates.
    - i. [2024 Intern Program is now open - Shoreline Greenway Trail!!](#)
  - b. New Haven update and public walk on proposed trail – APRIL 20<sup>th</sup>.
    - i. [Walk the proposed connecting Shoreline Greenway Trail section in New Haven - March 23rd \(NOT the 23<sup>rd</sup>, APRIL 20<sup>th</sup>!!\)](#)
3. BD
  - a. Capital City programs.
    - i. Caitlin Palmer -wrapping up the Griffin section
      1. Mid-May target
        - a. Bill O’Neill indicated this has been a 30<sup>th</sup> project.
          - i. Connections to Bradley Univ HTFD?
        2. June-earliest final draft will be public.
  - b. BD indicated Merritt Parkway projects are still in the books.

4. Marc Weinberg
  - a. indicated limited computer access and hard mail files to him for review.
    - i. Kim and Bruce will connect for how to handle.
  - b. What about in Person meeting?
    - i. Bruce suggested possibly quarterly.
    - ii. Kim B indicated that HYBRID would be highly preferred for attendance.

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

Next Meeting: May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 9:00AM Zoom

Submitted by Dan Buckley 04/11/24.