



Connecticut Greenways Council

Minutes of Meeting

May 14th, 2024

Via Teams

A regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Tuesday, May 14th, 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, Lois Bruinooge, Claire Cain, Bob Dickenson, Stacey Sterns, Marc Weiberg and Officio member; Kim Bradley and Anna Bergeron.

Guests attending were: Jay Annis, Norm Berg, Bill Boles, Dan Buckley (SGT), Aaron Budris (NVCOG), Ryan Carboni, Martha Conneely (Riverfront Recapture), Delia Fry, Cathy H (Deer Park Pond), Jim Kulpa (VHB), Mark Jewell (VHB), Christine O'Neill, Kate Rattan and "unknown user".

- **Call to Order**

Bruce Donald (BD) established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:06 am. Audio recording was started by Kim Bradley (KB).

- **Adoption of minutes.**

1. Motion to accept by Rista M and Claire Cain seconded.
2. The motion was passed without exception.

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

1. Legislative:
 - a. Session is over. Little in the way of AT
 - i. Some groundwork laid for future leg.
 - ii. Next year will revisit budget for Rec Trails, 2026-
2. Projects:
 - a. Will hold to end.

- **CT DOT BPAC** – Anna Bergeron (AB)

1. Christopher Roberts is at ride to work in HTFD.
2. A section of Charter Oak has been repaved by DOT.
 - a. Sections with Cracks were filled.
3. Shout out to Micro Grants and AT office!!!
 - a. \$150K spent in the first round.

- b. Round 2 closes June 28th
 - i. Plenty of money left, < \$5K, not for construction.

LINK <https://portal.ct.gov/dot/programs/safe-routes-to-school-srts-program/srts---home>

4. Working out to have \$\$ for maintenance of Trail Resurfacing.
 - a. Send Anna Email for areas needing Paving.
 5. Bruce was at the Ribbon Cutting at Putman Bridge.
- **DEEP - Kim Bradley (KB)**
 1. 2024 Recreational Trails Grant program.
 - a) Bruce starts off with an overview.
 - i. Asked DEEP what THEY needed for Admin. Took less. More to trails.
 - Admin position is funded by this.
 - Great Relationship CGC and DEEP
 - ii. Massive THANK YOU to sub team for all the support, time, energy.
 - iii. The quality of applications is high and has been improving over the years.
 - Many highly rated! Exclusively awarded highly rated.
 - iv. Several Educational.
 - b) KB: Used the agreed format for Ranking. (there were NO “LOW” Ranking)
 - i. Several in distressed communities. Environmental justice
 - ii. High number of NEW applicants.
 - iii. Geographic diversity
 - iv. Several requests were from applicants with OPEN contracts.
 - v. Will go to DEEP leadership for Approval, then announcements and award letters. **NOTHING public yet.** Press release pending.
 - vi. Rista indicated that in-kind \$ were included in the calculation and possible partial funding.
 - c) KB: Shared the list. A-Z.
 - i. \$10 M total funding.
 - ii. ~35 projects and several educational.
 - iii. Comments from Committee.
 - Bob Di indicated we could use MORE \$\$ for planning and design.
 - Rista indicated P&Z amounts were also looking for federal funding due to comprehensive bids.
 - Bob Di indicated many projects were climate related.
 - Bruce indicated that CT was the only state that doesn't use Federal for Trails; uses STATE funding and it shows.
 - Mark indicated that this is a nice model for other states to follow.
 - Bruce indicated that RI DCR is thinking similar.
 - Kim indicated that ME, NC were also doing similar and watching CT success STATE bonding.
 - Rista indicated that Urban *trails* were important (vs. ‘sidewalk’ projects).
 - Bruce indicated Connectivity was highly considered.

- Kim indicated Design through construction was a challenge due to certainty of future funding.
 - So many High level projects were challenging. “Thank you’s” to team.
 - Kim will follow-up with both Awarded and not awarded applicants.
 - Bob Di commented that Urban trails 5’ sidewalks were narrower than 8’ trails – Bike co-use.
 - Bruce indicated more focus on Multi use trails vs. Sidewalks.
- iv. Bob D motions to approve list. Mark W. seconded.
 - Passed unanimously.
 - v. Bruce Recognizes DEEP team.
 - Kim Tania was key for Tracking and Reporting, Monic Power, Akibia Hicks many others. Joe Dickerson (equity advisor), Jeremy Hall (asst Dir),
 - Bruce indicated that the scoring method was uniform and a lot of continuity. Process to be commended.
 - vi. This will now go to DEEP leadership. Governor’s office may have interest.
 - Kim: Goal to have by AWARDS day??? Fingers Crossed.

- **OLD Business**

1. 2024 Connecticut Trails Symposium
 - a) Oct 4th
 - i. Rista set planning team meeting schedule.
 - ii. Rista indicated Venue application for Manchester Community college.
 - \$2000 rental.
 - iii. Motion to approve: Lois B, seconded by: Bob D
 - i. Passed unanimously.
 - iv. Kim will go forward with Contract.
2. 2024 Greenways Awards
 - a) May 31st. 10:00AM.
 - b) Boathouse venue!
 - i. <https://riverfront.org/riverside-park/>
 - c) Awards that came from the council.
 - i. **Kim** has list and will post.
 - ii. Motion to accept Rista, seconded by: Mark W
 - Passed Unanimously.
 - iii. Invitations to go out. PLEASE spread the word!!
 - Separate press release.
 - Try to get out SAVE THE DATE this week.
3. Greenways License Plate Program (BD)
 - i. Kim Has Rack Cards – Email her if you want some.
 - Will have at the Trails Day.
4. Quarterly Meetings in person/hybrid.
 - a) At VHB in Wethersfield? Bruce will work with Jim K.
 - i. Include virtual connection.

- ii. Mark W. indicated that b/c we are a STATE council and may be able to get a committee room at the LLB.
 - Bruce indicated that parking could be an issue.
 - Has been discussed in the past and previously preferred VHB location.
 - iii. Bob D; is TIME difficult due to travel congestion?
- **NEW Business**
 1. None offered.
 - **Public Comment**
 - None offered.
 - Kate Ratten put in Chat.

“I wanted to mention two DOT projects for Greenway council to be aware of. 58-342 will replace a Route 215 bridge over Amtrak but is considering installation of buffered bike lanes on Route 215(which is part of the Groton Cross Town Greenway). Public comment period is open thorough May 27th <https://portal.ct.gov/dotgroton58-342>.

Gold Star Bridge Rehabilitation in New London and Groton will have a significant interruption of pedestrian access. There is a public comment period <https://portal.ct.gov/dotgoldstar94-235vpim>. Project 94-267 is the related Gold Star Bridge multi-use path over the Thames River. There will be a public meeting scheduled shortly to discuss plans with the public.

Bruce thanked all and concluded the meeting at 10:25.

Next Meeting: June 11th, 2024, 9:00AM Zoom

Submitted by Dan Buckley 05/15/24.