



Connecticut Greenways Council

Minutes of Meeting

July 9th, 2024

Via Microsoft Teams

A regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Tuesday, July 9th, 2024 via Microsoft Teams. The meeting link details and agenda were sent to the invite list by Bruce Donald.

Present were council members: Bruce Donald (Chair), Paula Burton, Kim Bradley and Christopher Roberts, Lois Bruinooge
(17 total)

Guests attending were: Jay Annis, Andy Bicking, Dan Buckley (SGT), Aaron Budris (NVCOG), Ryan Carboni, Martha Conneely (Riverfront Recapture), Delia Fry, Jim Kulpa (VHB), Emily Wilson, Caitlin Palmer, William Champagne Nicholas Dostal.

- **Call to Order**

Bruce Donald (BD) called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

Audio recording was started by Kim Bradley (KB).

- **Adoption of minutes.**

1. There were no minutes from last meeting. Kim and Bruce will get recording and send out summary.

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

1. Meetings:

- a. DOT / League of American Bicyclists state ranking.
- b. Central Connecticut loop trail meeting
 - i. Through Middletown.
- c. SCROG visioning session.
 - i. Projects in the pipeline.
- d. Bike Walk CT meeting Sandy Fry.

2. Legislative:

- i. Looking for Ideas for this coming 2025 session. (possible CFPA, Bike Walk CT, etc)
- ii. Send to Bruce.

3. Ride the State was very successful.

4. CORAs presentation was very good on the SCORP.

- a. Paula Burton talked about Meet Ups. Quarterly. Various subjects/locations/groups.
- b. Paula talked about (North East Consortium)
 - i. Met and learned about topics.

5. Projects:

- a. Caitlin Palmer spoke of the East Coast Greenway Gap study. 70-80 M\$

- i. Many new people involved. Bloomfield, Simsbury involved with Funding requests.
 - ii. Formal adoption of plan will come after towns approve – FALL-ish timing
 - iii.
 - b. Jim Kulpa (VHB) – Bruce mentioned several projects.
 - i. Projects:
 1. 2 in New Britain: Phase 1 and Phase 2, followed by phase 3.
 2. Some are TA monies
 3. New Britain line to Farmington River Canal trail gap is ~2miles.
 4. Meriden will get NE parkway trail.
 5. Columbia/Coventry – Bridge and Crossings have to be considered.
 6. Connecticut River Walk. Endangered Grasses and Invertebrates have to be assessed.
 7. Hamden road crossing will now be raised.
 8. Mansfield MUT around UConn to close loop.
 9. Pomfret along Airline Trail. Bridges and culverts to be connected.
 10. Watertown. Determining permitting required. Next year for bids.
 11. Simsbury Curtis Park advancing.
 12. Naugatuck Valley
 13. Killingly/Plainfield - Quinebaug trail.
 14. Scouts Projects are available. Contact Jim.
 15. 50 Projects in total. Offered to put list in CHAT.
- **DEEP - Kim Bradley (KB)**
 1. 2024 Recreational Trails Grant program.
 - a) Webinar on June 27th for implementations for Grantees.
 - b) Trying to get into a shareable format.
 - c) CHRO is Partner for implementation.
 - d) Contracting overlapped with Fiscal year. A lot of effort needed (Legal shout out).
 - e) CT Trails Symposium being formalized.
 - i. Manchester Community College.
 2. Connecticut Trail Learning Community.
 - i. Need people to step up and lead topics.
 - ii. Bruce will sign up for a presentation on National APA Conference.
 3. Need to set time for new website.
 - a) Change in DEEP communication team may lag.
 - b) Synch with UConn Trails page for support.
 - c) Also BPAC sites.
- **CT DOT BPAC – Christopher Roberts**
 1. Questions for the League of American Bicyclists for better ranking
 2. Kick off for Active Transportation Plan last month.
 3. Requested that he send link to info and Website when ready.

- **OLD Business**

1. Connecticut Trailfinder (Emily Wilson)
 - a) Trailside Services.
 - i. Distance not a big deal.
 - ii. Guidelines for services is on Website.
 - b) Other trails being added.
 - c) Connecticut Census Count published.
 - d) Social Media back in order to share events.
2. Aaron Budris – getting downloads.
 - a) Temporary Counters data is available for 2023.
 - b) Updated program with nominal fee.
 - c) Working with groups that have their own counters.
 - d) Farmington Trail has reached out.
3. Licensing program update – still cant order Greenway Plates – Bruce is on it with DMV.
4. Use for Small Grant program
 - a) Guidelines in Legislations
5. 2024 Symposium.
 - a) GROWING YOUR TOOLBOX theme.
 - b) Call for presentations
 - c) MCC is site
 - d) Friday, Oct 4th.

- **NEW Business**

1. Jay Annis – shout out to Emily and her team on Trailside Services. Intern doing a great job. Businesses are thrilled.
2. Quarterly Hybrid In person meetings. Next Sept 10th.

- **Public Comment**

- Dan Buckley talked about SGT Interns and High School connections.
 - Kim mentioned Joe Lanier out of Oxford who is a teacher with shared vision.
- Aaron Budris will be getting Grant (\$5.7M for design of additional NVRG).

CHAT

[9:59 AM] Aaron Budris (Unverified) (External)

<https://nvcogct.gov/pr-raise-nrg-2024/>

PRESS RELEASE: \$5.7 Million RAISE Grant for Naugatuck River Greenway Trail Development – NVCOG CT – Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

A post on NVCOG CT - Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments provided by: <https://nvcogct.gov>

[10:00 AM] Caitlin Palmer (Unverified) (External)

<https://crcog.org/for-immediate-release-crcog-receives-2-million-raise-grant-from-the-u-s-department-of-transportation/>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: CRCOG receives \$2 Million RAISE Grant from the U. S. Department of Transportation - CRCOG | Capitol Region Council of Governments
Investing in America: Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$1.8 Billion in National Infrastructure Grants Hartford, CT, June 27, 2024 – The U.S Department of Transportation (USDOT) awarded \$2 Mill...

[10:01 AM] Aaron Budris (Unverified) (External)

And to CRCOG!

[10:06 AM] Wilson, Emily H (Unverified) (External)

I was just going to say that. They are doing wonderful things
<https://www.cttrailfinder.com/trails/trail/rockhouse-hill-sanctuary>

Rockhouse Hill Sanctuary

Rockhouse Hill Sanctuary contains an extensive network of hiking and biking trails of varying difficulty that are maintained by the Oxford High School Youth Conservation Corps.

Bruce thanked all and concluded the meeting at 10:11.

Next Meeting: NO AUG MEETING Hybrid meeting VHB Wethersfield, Sept 10th, 2024, 9:00AM Zoom

Submitted by Dan Buckley 07/10/24.