

CT Greenways Council

Notes of Discussions September 12, 2016

Council Members (X In attendance)

- X Bruce Donald – Chairman - President of Farmington Valley Trails Council
- X Jamie Litner - - Eversource (awaiting appointment)
 - Lois Bruinooge - Executive Director, The Last Green Valley
- X Stacey Stearns - CT Horse Council
- X Bob Dickinson – Appalachian Mountain Club
- X Rista Malanca – Naugatuck River Greenway
- X Joe Hickey - CT Forest & Park Assoc.
- X William D. O'Neill - East Coast Greenway Alliance
 - Steve Mitchell – Mitchell Auto Group (awaiting appointment)
 - Michelle Eckman – CT Audubon Society
- X Laurie Giannotti (DEEP Liaison) - Ex-Officio Member
- X Kevin Tedesco (DOT Liaison) - Ex-Officio Member

Via conference call: Lois Bruinooge, Michelle Eckman, Ken Shooshan Stoller, FHWA; Christine Witkowski, MxCC; Guests: Jim Kulpa, Andrea Drabicki, VHB; Sam and Alex from NECCOG; Marcy Miller, FHI; Anna Bergeron, DOT.

Call to Order 9:30 am by Laurie Giannotti.

Adoption of Minutes July 2016 meeting minutes. As submitted.

Chairman's Report – Bruce Donald

- 30 new sections of ECG to be designated in 2017, 8 more miles in CT
- Discussion of trail thru UTC property, still seeking alternate route
- FCHT - Plainville/Southington/New Britain Last big gap Southington will get constructed Farmington is under construction right now
- Merritt Parkway Trail Test piece 1.75 mile Trails around the route 1 area linking other trails Meeting held in Norwalk - City Planners called a meeting 2 weeks from today.
- Fuss and O'Neill - got a contract from CT DOT for a compilation of Merritt Parkway project history public input (DOT will try to give the GC an update)
- Worcester County, NY will be revisiting their connection to the Merritt Pkwy
- Bruce will be speaking at the NEDA conference on the bike/ped economics for FCHT area. Will share PPT with GC

Correspondence – Laurie Giannotti

- New Milford River Trail Association having a meeting on 9/14 - Still River Greenway by Dennis DiPinto, Brookfield Director of Parks and REc
- Economic Impact of Trails and Greenways - Laura Brown will be invited to discuss that report at an upcoming GC meeting (suggested by Bill O)

CT DOT & Bike/Ped Advisory Comm. – Jim Kulpa, Kevin Tedesco

- Glastonbury connection to Putnam Bridge in design, planned 2019 completion
- Bill O'Neill asks Kevin T. in Bolton: from Finley Street how can we get riders off RTE 44? DOT will follow-up
- East Hartford sch for end of 2016 completion
- Bloomfield is out to bid but delay due to staff transitions

- Seymour NRG bids accepted this week
- Ansonia Riverwalk bridge out to bid next month
- Guilford SGT underway
- Southington survey of PanAM ROW pending. SRS section to move forward this week. Question: Does the land need to be remediated to residential standards?
- Moosup V SPT scoping underway
- Hop River SPT Columbia scoping now and NECCOG offered assistance
- RI DOT is re-doing bridges along Trestle Trail but holding off on paving
- Question on FCHT Cheshire section thru Dalton property; DOT will followup
- Question from Andrea Drabicki are bike/ped counts being done for CT Fasttrack? DOT will follow up but assumed NO. the “dawn to dusk” open policy for parks may inhibit urban commuters and others.
- Strava data - 2014 vs. 2015 comparison data route preference drastically changed towards the trail.

Legislative Report –

- Bruce is meeting with Senator Beth Bye re RR liability legislation. RR has protection now because there would be no user fee but legislation would clarify that protection.
- Bike Walk CT will soon have a new ED
- The GW plate legislation is still on our agenda
- Bruce reviewed his letter to Gov requesting restoration of 5 million of bond funds to the CRTP and encouraged the GC to write similar letters in collaboration with CFPA. He will provide templates to the GC.

Old Business –

- CT Recreational Trails Program (CRTP)
 - Kevin T emphasized that the DOT Community Connectivity program is a source of funding that should be utilized for trail projects
 - RFP was issued for the CRTP
- NVCOG Trail User Survey – RF Volunteers was sent out – discussion of potential other options to get this important work completed ensued should the RFV come up short.
- CT Trails Symposium – to be held Thursday, October 20th 2016 at MxCC (represented by Christine Witkowski (CW)). Agenda is completed. Working on caterer and registration. Eventbrite was suggested by Bruce because MxCC has some unexpected issues with their technology.

New Business –

- DOT Bike Ped Plan Update, Marcy Miller, FHI
 - Project background: Started 10 months ago - project duration 18 months; Two steering committee meetings held; Updated plan in 2009; Want to account for Complete Streets adoptions; Vision and action strategies were updated; Last meeting: Talked a lot about Bike Map, Where is this bike map going to go? Want this to be a planning document - based on Steering Committee feedback; Schedule: Public Info meeting first in November (4 total); Draft map this fall.

- **Mapping Effort:** Emphasized that this map is an off-road route map; Marcy asked GC members to respond to: Does it makes sense? Did FHI flag everything we needed to be flagged? What is missing? Routes? Routes on there that are intended to be planned? Are categories appropriate?

Need to wrap up the mapping effort within the next month; Met with all the regions – FHI Next step - trying to designate and identify connections where it's on/off road; If the routes are not linear will not make it on the map.

Discussion of missing CT Designated Greenways and concurrence that they should be included. Laurie G. will identify routes and provide information to Marcy.

Discussion of GC Secretary Position. No Council member came forward. Andrea Drabicki, VHB volunteered. Bruce will confirm that a non-council member can be the secretary.

Next Meeting – VHB, November 14, 2016

Adjournment: 11:30 AM