

CT Greenways Council, Meeting Minutes 11/14/11

Council Members (X In attendance)

Lois Bruinooge - Deputy Executive Director, The Last Green Valley

X Jan Collins - CT Horse Council

Robert Dickinson - CT Bicycle Alliance

Lisa Fernandez - Farmington Canal Rail to Trail Assoc.

Tracy Gionfriddo - Northeast Utilities

David Gumbart – Town of Killingworth; The Nature Conservancy; CT Forest & Park Assoc.

Barbara Pfister Greenbaum - Conserving Tolland

- X Joe Hickey CT Forest & Park Assoc.
- X William D. ONeill (vice-chair) East Coast Greenways Alliance
- X Mark Paquette (chair) Executive Director WINCOG
- X Laurie Giannotti (DEEP Liaison) Ex-Officio Member
- X Katherine Rattan (DOT Non-Motorized Transportation Coordinator) Ex-Officio Member

Guests:

Francis Pickering, Central CT Regional Planning; Ken Shooshan-Stoller, Federal Highways Administration Steve Mitchell, East Coast Greenway Board; Tom Maziarz- DOT; Tenia Seay (DEEP Recreational Trails Program)

Chairman's Report

Mark Paquette called the meeting to order. Minutes from the September 12th meeting were moved and approved.

Tom Maziarz was given time at his request and personally thanked the GC for his recent award. Tom entertained questions.

Ken Shooshan-Stoller was given time to speak and discussed Transportation Fund re-authorization.

Correspondence

Laurie shared an email addressed to the GC from Doug Smith requesting grant funding for a foot bridge to cross the Hockanum River connecting sections of the Hockanum River Greenway.

Greenways Council Mission Planning

Mark asked the GC if they felt it was necessary to revisit their mission strategy and in particular look at developing a strategy for the next 5 years. The GC members present agreed that their current mission was on track and still relevant but did agreed to development of a 5 year strategy. Discussions began which will continue over the next 2-3 meetings. Initial discussions included re-establishment of The Greenway Help Center, website updates, and more coordination with OPM and the DOT Bike-Ped Advisory Committee.

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DOT Bike & Ped Advisory Committee Updates

Kate will submit her notes separately.

Legislative Report

Mark continues to work with Senator Cassano to restore the license plate fund. Bill asked that the GC request a meeting with DEEP Commissioner Esty to discuss the license plate fund and PA 07-7 section 68 regarding CT Bikeways grants program. No motion was made.

Old Business

- a) Wrap Up CT Greenways Day; everyone was pleased with the event.
- b) Recreation Trails Grant Program (Laurie) Laurie stated the Recreational Trails Advisory Committee met and ranked proposals for POTENTIAL (pending Transportation Fund re-authorization) 2012 funding. The list will next be sent to SHPO and FHWA. Laurie is currently working with FHWA trying to finish the Federal Fiscal Year 2011 project authorization.
- c) Merritt Parkway Trail Study Kate reported that the planning study is underway. Will Britnell, Principal Engineer at ConnDOT (860) 594-3274 is managing the study and is establishing a website.
- d) Restoration of license plate funds covered under Legislative Report.

New Business

Upcoming events that appeared on the agenda were discussed.

Next meeting is scheduled for 1/09/12 at DOT at 9:30 a.m. Kate requested that folks arrive 5 mins prior to facilitate building security procedures.

Meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.