



P.O. Box 57, Durham, CT 06422-0057

Meeting Minutes of September 21, 2017

Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order:

The meeting was held at Eversource in Berlin. The meeting called to order at 6:55 pm by Fred

Attending: Ginger Tullai, Diane Ciano, Fred Mastele, Ruth Beardsley, Meg Sautter, Laurie Giannotti, Eric Hammerling

Excused: David Frassinelli

Review Meeting Minutes:

Meeting minutes of June 15, 2017 were reviewed and corrected. Motion to accept by Ruth 2nd Ginger. Passed unanimously.

State Park & Forest updates:

Natchaug SF – Lost Silver Mine Horse - The camp sites were mowed in August and look very nice. A small portion of the common area was mowed. Larger shrubs have grown up and most of it still needs to be brush hogged.

Salmon River State Forest: No Update

Larkin Bridle Trail: Diane did the CT Census Trail Survey and noted 63 people on her last visit. The trail needs mowing and brush hogging. Trail is now only 4' wide instead of 10-12". Unknown if bridge is fixed. Some trees across trail in sections of Rte. 63 to South St. Diane will contact Nathan Hale and ask for volunteers to help.

Machimoodus and Sunrise State Parks: Ginger reports that the camp out went well. There were 25 horses that camped in the field. The event made enough money, along with public donations to pay for insurance for the Friends of Machimoodus. The CT Trail Riders Association (CTRA) hosted a judged trail ride and poker game on Sunday with 60 riders. According to the Natural Diversity Data Base, there are some areas that have been declared sensitive for plants/animal and is impacting use.

Other trail reports:

Goodwin State Forest: Laurie reported that she was out to Goodwin with Park Supervisor, Matt Quinn and the Goodwin Trails committee and saw the new boardwalk which looks great. The Airline trail needs mowing and stone dust. They are installing new directional signs and line painting the east side of Potter Road as a trail designation for multi users to walk along the road.

Great Pond State Forest, Simsbury:



Meg reported a large sink hole at Great Pond to Laurie who in turn reached the Supervisor of this area, Tammy Talbot. Tammy responded with getting a crew out there to fill in the hole and then another report came in that the fill had sunk down even more, then she promptly sent out another crew. Thank you DEEP!

Bluff Point State Park:

Two signs have been posted by the Groton Shellfish Commission without permission of DEEP
One sign reads: **"NO DOGS OR HORSES ALLOWED ON BEACHES"**

The other:

"ATTENTION EQUESTRIANS"

HORSEBACK RIDING ON SHORE OR IN WATER IS DISCOURAGED. PLEASE KEEP TO INLAND TRAILS"



Regarding the signs at Bluff Point, Ruth Strontzer reported to Conn Trail Rides Association - CTRA

September 11 at 3:22pm ·

“For those people that have seen the sign below that was recently posted at Bluff Point I just got off the phone with Scott Dawley the District 2 Manager of DEEP. Bluff Pt is one of the many State Parks and Forests in the eastern part of the state that he is in charge of. I had sent him a picture of the posted sign in an email He called me back to speak to me personally about it. He was very clear that the sign **IS NOT A DEEP APPROVED SIGN**. Horses **ARE** allowed in the water from Sept to the end of March. However although they have no policy against horses being in the river or the lagoon they do prefer if horses are in the water that it is in done at Mumford Cove or on the beach side of the point. He is also asking if I could pass along to riders asking ~~for them to~~ **that** in high traffic areas **they** kick the droppings from the horses off the trails and make sure that the areas around the trailers are cleaned of manure. NO COMPLAINTS have been made against CTRA but day trippers and other clubs are not leaving a good impression with the general public. I assured him that CTRA already does this but I would pass it along to the membership and ask them to share this information with friends. PLEASE SHARE.”

Hurd State Park:

Ginger reported that the town repaired the road conditions (that were mentioned in previous discussions) on its own.

Legislative Discussion:

Eric led the discussion on the Recreational Trails Program and Greenways and working to continue it. It is currently unfunded in the draft budget which is important as a place holder in budget for bonding. There may not be any bonding this year. Eric will talk to the Governor and encouraged all to write to the Governor Malloy about funding and bonding. Eric will get us a template. He will also be speaking with Representative Mary Mushinsky to help with the Greenways funding to make sure that everything is consistent.

Passport to the Parks: Is in all budget proposals- maybe \$6.00 - \$10.00 as a surcharge on DMV registration. This money is to be earmarked for parks, but there is no “lock box.”

Old Business:

DOT Bike-Ped Plan: Laurie will follow up and report.

New Business:

Laurie reported on the 2nd Trails Symposium to take place October 19th - (900-3:00) at the Goodwin College, East Hartford, presented by the CT Greenways Council. The agenda will include “Engaging in conversation about why and how to put your local trail systems to work for your community. Speakers and panels will use local examples to illustrate the demand for and benefits of local trails and how your community can sustain a world class trail system.”

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the EAC will be Thursday, December 14th, 2017 at the Eversource Building located at 107 Selden Street, Berlin, CT at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend. CONFERENCE CALL WILL BE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Meg at 7:55 pm. Seconded by Ginger. Unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Ciano
Acting Secretary, EAC