



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

## Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2016

Thursday, December 15, 2016 6:30 p.m.  
Eversource Building, Berlin

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

**Guests:** Jeffrey Cash, Lona Claire Ives, Mary Cash

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was held at the Eversource Building in Berlin.

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm by Fred.

Introductions made between EAC members and guests.

### **Review Meeting Minutes:**

Meeting minutes of September 15, 2016 were reviewed and the following corrections made: On page 3 re: Recreational Trails Program, the deadline is corrected to December 15, 2016 for 2017 grants. Also in that section, last line, the Bike-Ped Plan is corrected to indicate it is a DOT Bike-Ped Plan. Motion by Meg to accept with corrections. Ginger seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

### **State Park & Forest updates:**

**Natchaug SF – Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp** - Diane reports that she had not heard any feedback from DEEP Matt Quinn, who said that he would check with his supervisor (Scott Dawley) to see if a written agreement of what is expected of the both entities could be written up regarding the caretaking of the campground. Fred reported that one solar toilet door does not lock.

**Goodwin State Forest:** - Diane reports that Program Director, Beth Rhines has notified the CHC regarding the harvest and that CHC has passed it onto their membership.

**Salmon River State Forest:** Ginger reported that she started marking the Comstock Bridge, River Road and Air Line trails 3 different times but someone has taken down all her markers (tape and yellow diamonds). Ginger will ask Dave Buckley if she can use paint on the approved trail and go together to mark other trails.

### **Larkin Bridle Trail:**

**RE: Connecticut Trail Census** An infrared counter has been placed at the Riggs Street crossing in Oxford. CHC-VHP member, Vevette Greenberg has volunteered to be the trail site Coordinator and will monitor the counter, along with Joe Lanier (Oxford High School who will work with students for hire to help with the project). Updated information about the Census of the 12 trails selected can be found on the website: [http://clear.uconn.edu/projects/ct\\_trail\\_census/index.htm](http://clear.uconn.edu/projects/ct_trail_census/index.htm)

**Machimoodus and Sunrise Resort State Parks:** Ginger reports that the "Friends of Machimoodus" corporation has not yet been formed with the State; the charitable designation as a 501(c)(3) entity will be done later. Discussion of corporate formation requirements. A fundraiser and introduction event is planned for May, and many other events are being considered.

### **Other Trail Reports:**

**Merrit Parkway:** David had no updated information on the Merrit Parkway trail.

**Hurd State Park and Bluff Point:** Ginger reports that there are gigantic pot holes in the road leading to the Heard parking lot and that the Bluff Point parking lot needs regrading. Laurie suggested that CHC email a letter to Dave Buckley asking to be put on the list, or ask the town DPW to spread material provided by DEEP. Alternatively, CHC can tell the DPW that CHC will provide volunteers to spread the material themselves. Dave must approve whatever is to be done.

**Legislative Discussion:** Eric reports that the Conveyance Act, which passed in the General Assembly in 2016, needs to pass again in 2017 or 2018 to get a Constitutional Amendment on the state ballot. Eric distributed a letter requesting interested and affected organizations to sign onto a letter asking legislators to support the bill. EAC members identified organizations they would approach about signing on. Eric and Laurie reported that OPM wants a 10% cut in DEEP's budget plan, which would eliminate all seasonal employees as well as decrease other services, possibly resulting in some facilities closing. OPM also requested revenue ideas, including selling Passports for Parks through the DMV, which would add about \$14.5 million in revenue but would lessen park admission fee revenue by about \$6 million. Legislation should ideally include a "lockbox" to earmark this revenue for DEEP or a "donation" that the Attorney General's Office would protect, possibly as an Investment Fund. The Legislative Session begins January 4, 2017.

**Old Business:** Laurie reported that the Greenways Annual Trail Symposium was successful and there was much positive feedback. Stacey Stearns did a great job presenting information on CT Equine Advisory Council Trail Surface Study and the CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol.

### **New Business:**

**CT Greenways Council:** CHC member Stacey Stearns was appointed to represent the CHC and horse community. Maureen VanderStad contacted the CHC wanting to serve on a committee or Council. She was referred to an opening available for the CT Greenways Council.

**Field Forest:** Mary Cash addressed the group about some issues regarding CFPA's stewardship of the Field Forest, which local riders use to access Cockaponset State Forest. Eric was able to address her concerns regarding insurance, a license for use and trail maintenance funds, and contact information was exchanged for follow up.

**Sleeping Giant State Park:** Lona inquired about better access for horse trailers to access the Chestnut Lane trails. Meg and Diane suggested she contact the Cheshire Horse Council.

**CHC Road Safety** - An educational video on passing horses safely along the roads is ready for Public Access distribution. There are 24 office locations around the state that local CHC members need to sign off that they are citizens of the town that the offices are located. They will only play it for one year, unless they are contacted again.

**February 4th 2017**

DEEP No Child Left Inside Winter Festival will be on **Saturday, February 4th**, 10:00AM-3PM at Burr Pond State Park in Torrington. The public is invited to attend. CHC-VHP will bring horses to the event to meet and greet the visitors attending the event.

**March 18th 2017**

The CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol will have its annual; meeting on **Saturday March 18th** at the Newington Fire house, Newington. This will be an open house for all interested in joining this state wide effort.

**DEEP Recreational Trails Program:** Laurie reported that they received 37 applications, totaling over \$3 million in requested funds. At this time the amount available is unknown. Many projects were completed in 2016.

**DOT Bike-Ped Plan:** Laurie updated the group. A map of recommended future bikeways may possibly include off road multi-use trails too. Lona recommended Google Explorer to help with this. Contact information was exchanged for follow up.

**CFPA ARC-GIS:** Eric reports that a free ARC-GIS program called "Story Mapping" has photos of projects and shows where work is happening throughout the state.

**Cockaponsett State Forest:** The Park Supervisor, Alex Sokolow, was contacted by Roxanne Winslow about marking a couple of loops with yellow diamonds. More information to follow.

**2017 Meeting Dates:**

March 16<sup>th</sup>, June 15<sup>th</sup>, September 21<sup>st</sup>, December 14<sup>th</sup>

**Photo:** A new photo was taken of all EAC members for inclusion on the website.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the EAC will be Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> 2017 at the Eversource Building located at 107 Selden Street, Berlin, CT at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Fred Mastele at 7:45 pm. Seconded by Meg.  
Unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Beardsley  
Acting Secretary, EAC