

Equine Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes for June 16th 2009

Meeting Location: Northeast Utilities Building, Newington, CT

Call to Order 6:20pm

Attendees: Laurie Giannotti, Diane Ciano, Leslie Lewis, Amy Stegall, Ruth Beardsley, Alesia DiFederico, Jan Collins

Acceptance of Minutes for 4/21/09. Laurie made a correction to the minutes regarding the DEP Mapping & Signage to read as follows:

DEP Mapping & Signage:

Diane and Meg Sautter will review the Patchaug SF Map and determine a suitable 5, 10, and 15 mile loop for the CT Horse Council's mapping project of Patchaug SF. Laurie said that DEP will require diamond markers to be attached using aluminum 4" nails to designate each route. The diamond trail markers will be explained in the map legend.

Ruth motioned to accept the minutes with the correction, Laurie seconded: so passed.

Appointments: Status Quo, still no appointments. Leslie Lewis offered to consult with a friend who possibly can offer some help. There was discussion regarding the Secretary of State's office which may have some involvement regarding the administration of appointments.

Logo: Diane presented revised logos but all were "too busy." Discussion regarding using clip art and Jan Collins may know someone as well.

DEP: The revised maps depicting all the equestrian accessible trails for Patchaug SF were given to Laurie for approval by DEP. The 5, 10 and 15 mile loops were also separately noted. Upon approval of the existing trail system on the maps DEP will give permission for the marking of the trails with the yellow diamond markers.

CHC still has the DEP Green Falls Map and has a local equestrian working on noting the equestrian accessible trails and some marked loop trails for that section.

Trail Issue in Patchaug SF: Discussion regarding the blocking of a trail within the SF by persons claiming to be CFPA members and/or DEP volunteers. Neither Laurie nor Leslie had heard of the issue and certainly no permission or directive from either entity was given to any individuals to block trails. Both Laurie and Leslie will be investigating the matter further. Laurie will contact the Eastern District Supervisor, Scott Dawley for additional information as he has also been notified.

Bridge Specifications: Laurie stated she was gathering information for appropriate multi use trail bridges. Alesia offered to aid in the search for specs that would meet the needs of all user groups.

Natchaug SF (Silvermine Horse Camp) grant monies should be finalized next week as it is fiscal year end.

RTP grant monies were discussed as a possible funding source for the installation of bridges and the expansion of parking areas to better accommodate horse trailers at state parks.

Website: Laurie has created a webpage for the EAC under the DEP's website. The page is ready to go live with some minor revisions. Amy will make revisions for Laurie's implementation. Laurie asked to submit pictures, especially ones with working parties. Diane will send some of those pictures. Amy will send her a picture of Representative Debra Lee Hovey with her horse.

Bike Ped Plan: The draft for the plan is now available online. It is apparent horses were not included in the plan's vision statement despite verbal assurances that they were in fact considered by the consultants to be pedestrians. Jan Collins will call the consulting firm to find out what happened regarding the CHC proposals for the draft that were submitted to the Steering Committee. There will be another round of public informational meetings. Jan, Diane & Ruth will be attending one of these meetings and requesting additional information.

Next Scheduled Meeting: September 15th, NU Building, Newington, CT @ 6pm.

Adjourned: 7:30pm