



CONNECTICUT EQUINE ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2014

Attending:

Diane Ciano, David Frassinelli, Meg Sautter, Fred Mastele, Laurie Giannotti,

Excused:

Ruth Beardsley, Jan Collins, Eric Hammerling (CFPA).

Call to Order:

The meeting was held at the Northeast Utilities Building in Berlin. Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm by Fred 1st Diane. 2nd Laurie

Review Meeting Minutes:

Draft meeting minutes of September 18, 2014 were reviewed, as they had not been finished for approval. Ruth will send in the finished minutes for approval at our March 2015 meeting.

Legislation:

There was no new discussion on Legislation. We reviewed our last meetings discussion regarding:

1. Getting in touch with our legislators so that they know who we are. Also a reminder on asking legislators for appropriated funds for more encon officers (only 34 for the entire state).
2. Governor Malloy's promise if re-elected would establish a new \$5m Local Trailway Fund to provide funds to towns and cities for the creation, improvement or extension of linear trails and greenways in urban and suburban areas. Multi-use trails and greenways present great opportunities to encourage citizens of all ages to enjoy our outdoor spaces in their neighborhoods, and can complement projects already underway — as many towns and cities pursue the redevelopment of former mill sites along rivers. EAC Members discussed addressing the Governor on this promise.

State Forest & Park Updates:

Natchaug State Forest – Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp: Diane reported that to date the toilets at the camp have not been installed. Fred reported that at an organized ride in November, there were several trees taken down in the common area, boulders were moved, the 2 picnic tables and mounting block were removed. (possibly to get the tree removal equipment in). It is not known why the operation seems to have stopped, as the weather has not been a deterrent. Diane will contact Lori Lindquist, park supervisor for updated info on the toilets being installed.

Salmon River State Forest: Diane reported on the great progress that has been made with the Comstock Bridge. The doors have been opened and overhead bars removed to accept better handicap accessibility and to allow horses to cross. This now allows equestrians to utilize both sides of the forest trails without riding along Rte 16. (See pictures attached at end of report). Many thanks goes to the efforts and support of DOT Kevin Nursick. Kevin was instrumental in getting DOT and DEEP personnel to meet and discuss the possibility of opening this bridge for equestrians to pass. A meeting was also held at the site.

This was not an easy task to overcome as there were concerns of the safety of people on the bridge as the horses cross and the horse manure issues that may happen on or near the bridge. DOT is working on signage to address these concerns and CHC is working on educating the equestrian community.

The DOT & DEEP regard CHC and its members to be "stewards" of the bridge and trails and wants a commitment from the equestrians that they will remove any manure that happens near or on both sides of the bridge, possibly supply a shovel and pail, and to have several local equestrian contacts that DEEP can call on if there is manure to be removed from the bridge.

#2 Laurie brought out a trail issue concern reported by CT Forest & Park member, David Boone (blue-blazed trail steward) and DEEP Supervisor David Buckley. Apparently someone has put up a lot of pink flags on the trail where there are some yellow diamond markers. The flags and/or markers are on trails have discrepancies between the agreed upon route that was discussed with CFPA David Boone) on an earlier walk a couple of years ago. Diane said she would contact local equestrians to see if the pink flags were put up by them or another user group. In addition, there are currently too few yellow diamonds installed to clearly mark the trail for folks unfamiliar with the area. DEEP anticipates an increase in equestrian use with the recent removal of the lattice opening up the Comstock Bridge. This needs to be remedied as soon as possible. The project to propose a marked looped trail that connects the Salmon River Forest, Airline Greenway and Day Pond State park needs to move forward and gps for approval to mark.

Other Trail Reports: None

Trail Surface Study:

The Trail Surface Study is now ready to go public. Laurie will put this up on the EAC website with a note that the EAC council members are available for a presentation. She will also see if the DEEP can put an article to their agency.

The main discussion was that all members of the EAC work on an Out Reach Plan to disseminate this information to all towns in their Congressional Districts. (The list is attached). The project would start by every member collecting contact information (contact names, addresses and e-mails) from each of the towns in their district such as the Town Planner, Public Works, Land Use Coordinator, Parks & Recreation Directors, Planning & Zoning, Town Engineers, Local Land Trusts, Local Trail Organizations, Private engineering companies, Council of governments, etc. A EAC cover letter will be drafted so that the information on the Trail Study will have a proper presentation for the e-mail contact person/agency. This project will be ongoing.

New Business:

Best Of America on Horseback - Laurie reported that the national ride program aired on TV has contacted DEEP for information on locations to ride in CT. She replied to them for further information and is awaiting their reply.

DEEP - No Child Left Inside - Diane reported that the 9th Annual Winter Festival is on Saturday, February 7, 2015, at Burr Pond State Park in Torrington. She will send out this info to CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol members asking them to bring their horses to Meet & Greet the public.

Old Business:

Tabled from previous meetings: Pathways in Connecticut link on DOT website – discussion of failure to mention horseback riding permitted anywhere on Air Line Trail and state parks and forests. Laurie said that the time was right as there are new maps being made. She will follow through on the progress and make the proper contact.

2015 Meeting Dates:

The 2015 meetings of the EAC will continue to be to be quarterly at the Eversource (formerly Northeast Utilities) meeting room located at 107 Selden Street, Berlin, CT at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Thursday, March 19th

Thursday, June 18th

Thursday, September 17th

Thursday, December 17th

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Fred at 8:00 pm. 1st Meg. 2nd Laurie.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Ciano
Acting Secretary, EAC

Attachments 2

BEFORE



AFTER



Thank You DOT - DEEP

District #1**Speaker of the House****Jim Amann**

Colebrook	Hartland	Winchester	Barkhamsted
Torrington	New Hartford	Granby	East Granby
Windsor Locks	East Windsor	Bloomfield	Windsor
South Windsor	West Hartford	Hartford	East Hartford
Manchester	Newington - Meg Sautter	Wethersfield	Glastonbury
Rocky Hill	Bristol	Southington	Berlin
Cromwell	Portland	Middletown	

District #2**President Pro Tempore****Senator Donald Williams**

Suffield	Enfield	Somers - Jan Collins	Stafford
Union	Woodstock	Thompson	Ellington
Tolland	Willington	Ashford	Haddam
East Haddam	Salem	Montville	Ledyard
North Stonington	Eastford	Pomfret	Putnam
Killingly	Vernon	Bolton	Andover
Coventry	Mansfield	Chaplin	Hampton
Stonington	Groton	New London	Waterford
East Lyme	Brooklyn	Glastonbury	Hebron
Columbia	Windham	Scotland	Canterbury
Plainfield	Sterling	Marlborough	Lebanon
Old Lyme	Lyme	Essex	Deep River
Chester	Franklin	Sprague	Lisbon
Griswold	Voluntown	East Hampton – Ginger Tullai	Colchester
Bozrah	Norwich	Preston	Durham
Old Saybrook	Westbrook	Clinton	Killingworth
Madison			

District #3**House Majority Leader****House Majority Leader****J. Brendan Sharkey (2011)**

Waterbury	Naugatuck	Prospect	Ansonia
Derby	East Haven	Branford	Beacon Falls
Bethany-Ruth Beardsley	Hamden	Orange	Shelton
North Branford	Wallingford	Middletown	Middlefield
Stratford	Milford	Guilford	Durham
Seymour	Woodbridge	West Haven	New Haven
North Haven			

District #4**House Republican Leader****Representative Larry Cafero**

Ridgefield	Redding	Monroe	Oxford - Judy Beliveau
Greenwich	Shelton	Trumbull	Easton
Weston	Wilton	Bridgeport	Fairfield
Westport	Norwalk	New Canaan	Darien
Stamford		Newtown – David Frassinelli	

District #5**Senate Majority Leader****Senator Martin Looney**

Salisbury	Canaan	North Canaan	Norfolk
Sharon	Cornwall	Washington	Bethlehem
Roxbury	Woodbury	Newton Goshen	Canton
Simsbury	Torrington	Kent	Warren
Watertown	Middlebury	Waterbury	Wolcott
Litchfield	Harwinton	Burlington	Avon
Farmington	Morris	Cheshire	Meriden

New Fairfield
Plainville
Brookfield

Bridgewater
New Britain
Southbury

Thomaston
Sherman
Danbury

Plymouth – Diane Ciano
New Milford
Bethel

**Senate Minority Leader
Senator John McKinney**

CFPA –