



CONNECTICUT EQUINE ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Meeting Minutes of March 19, 2015

Attending:

Fred Mastele, Diane Ciano, Meg Sautter, Ruth Beardsley, Ginger Tullai

Excused:

David Frassinelli, Laurie Giannotti, Eric Hammerling (CFPA).

Call to Order:

The meeting was held at the Eversource Building in Berlin. Meeting called to order at 6:40 pm by Fred.

Review Meeting Minutes:

Minutes of both the September 18, 2014 and December 18, 2014 were reviewed and accepted. Motion to accept 1st Fred, 2nd Diane

State Forest & Park Updates:

Natchaug State Forest – Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp: Diane reported that to date the toilets at the camp have still not been installed. It is not known where the 3 picnic tables that were removed by DEEP in the common area are. (The 2 new ones were anchored down), the mounting block is still off to the side. Diane will contact Lori Lindquist, park supervisor for updated info on the toilets being installed.

Salmon River State Forest: Diane reported that Kevin Nursick, CONNDOT has a Press release ready and will be working on getting a publicity photo shoot.

Ginger reported on the issue of the trail marking and pink flags that were put up in the exact areas of the yellow diamonds. She met with David Buckley (DEEP) and showed him the map that David Boone (CFPA) had drawn up and sent to Laurie Giannotti (DEEP) after the original hike/meeting with CFPA, DEEP and CHC members regarding appropriate trail designation. David Buckley (DEEP) had no issues with the current yellow markers or map designation. The markers were posted exactly as the map stated and he is sending the map to Laurie again for final approval so that CHC can continue marking the rest of the trail. Ginger reported that the current pink flagging was put up in the exact area of the yellow diamond markers and that she heard through the kids in the neighborhood that the atv's had put them up.

Ginger will add more markers to that section of the trail and will be working with another local equestrian to map a loop trail utilizing both sides of the forest and crossing of the Comstock bridge to submit for DEEP approval.

The project will create a multi use trail to connect the Salmon River Forest, Airline Greenway and Day Pond.

Other Trail Reports: None

Trail Surface Study:

Fred will get contact information to do a press release. Ruth will work on a Press Release. Members will continue to collect contact info in their districts to disseminate this information.

Legislation:

Discussion on the legislation proposed regarding the licensing of riding instructors.

Fred noted that the Horse Council gave Appreciation Certificates and Lifetime memberships to Doug Dubinski and Rep. DebraLee Hovey for their contributions to the equine industry in CT.

New Business:

Friends of Sunrise Resort : Ginger reported that she is working on helping to establish the Friends of Sunrise Resort to move the park forward for camping, fishing and multi use trails and carriage driving. They are looking for a core group to start this.

Expansion of the Airline Trail: - Ginger is trying to get some information on the expansion on the Airline Trail from East Hampton to Portland, as she noted an article had been published stating that a committee had been formed and possibly some progress is started with funding. The article mentioned every user group except equestrians which is of concern. Parking expansion to accommodate horse trailers, trail surface and width needs to be addressed .

Jan Collins, Second Congressional District, Connecticut Horse Council has retired from this position. Jan continues to represent the equestrian community on the CT Greenways Council. Thank you Jan for all your time and dedication to the EAC and your continued support of the CT Horse Council on the CT Greenways Council.

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.

Next 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, June 18th

Thursday, September 17th

Thursday, December 17th

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Fred at 8:25 pm. 1st Ruth. 2nd Meg

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Ciano
Acting Secretary, EAC