



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

### **Meeting Minutes for March 20, 2014**

#### **Attending:**

Fred Mastele (President of CHC elected January 2014), Diane Ciano, Meg Sautter, David Frassinelli, Ruth Beardsley

#### **Excused:**

Laurie Giannotti, Meg Sautter, Jan Collins

#### **Absent:**

CFPA representative in place of retired member Leslie Lewis

#### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was held at the Northeast Utilities Building in Berlin. Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Fred.

#### **Review Meeting Minutes:**

Meeting minutes of December 19, 2013 were reviewed. Corrected spelling of "Frassinelli." Motion by Diane to accept as corrected. Ruth seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

#### **State Forest & Park Updates:**

Natchaug SF – Diane reported a workday scheduled April 5 and 6 at Lost Silvermine Horse Camp. Contractors will be bringing in fill to improve the sites and install 24 picnic tables. The DEEP has been notified. Diane will contact the DEEP Supervisor (Lori Lindquist) regarding DEEP installing the toilets. Once this is done, a handicap ramp and hitching post will be built and installed near the toilets. Diane also reported that she, Laurie and Jean Morrison will consult to get the map corrected for the kiosk; a miscommunication with the DEEP Supervisor resulted in the wrong map being installed.

Salmon River SF & Comstock Bridge – No report from Laurie. Diane knows of no change in status of the maps or bridge becoming accessible to horses and asked that the Council continue to address DEEP regarding this.

#### **Other Trail Reports:**

VHP has completed 11 years of existence. Diane will have statistics for our next meeting.

### **Legislation:**

Much discussion of several bills pending during the State legislative session, including bill numbers 0336 (vulnerable user bill), 5044 (domesticated horses not vicious), 5057 (allowing towns to exempt horses from taxation), 5369 and 5370 (funding DEEP for state parks and forests, accountability for managing them), and 5415 (Air Line Trail designated as “primarily a footpath” and allowing taking by eminent domain). Plan to urge all EAC and CHC members to contact their legislators to support all but Bill No. 5415. David will contact Rep. Debra Lee Hovey for input about previously passed legislation designating certain trails as open to horseback riding in perpetuity, and how that may be affected by Bill No. 5415.

### **Trail Surface Study:**

Review and discussion of draft power point. Laurie volunteered to help Ruth with the power point. Ruth forwarded to Laurie some additional information and photos to be included. Suggestions made re: font, add Diane’s position with CHC as a Vice President, correct some typos, add “State Forest” to the Cockaponset slide and include a photo of the Geogrid material mentioned in the power point. Also to include a link to the power point to add “Designing Shared Use Trails To Include Equestrians.” Ruth will contact Laurie.

### **Other Old Business:**

Winter No Child Left Inside event – Diane reported that over 700 attendees enjoyed it, held at Burpond State Park and VHP had two horses present.

Pathways in Connecticut link on DOT website – discussion of failure to mention horseback riding permitted anywhere on Air Line Trail and other trails. We will ask Laurie who to contact about changing that.

### **New Business:**

Agriculture Day at the Capitol – Fred reports that it was held on 3/19 so legislators could meet agriculture representatives.

Merritt Parkway Trail – David reports that meetings are ongoing about establishing a horseback riding trail in the 150 ft. easement on the south side of the Merritt Parkway. The Merritt Parkway Conservancy has been opposing it at public hearings being held by the DOT. The Merritt Parkway Trail Alliance has recently been formed which is in favor of it.

### **Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Ruth at 8:00 pm. Seconded by David. Unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Beardsley

Secretary, EAC