



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

### Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2016

#### Attending:

Fred Mastele, Diane Ciano, Eric Hammerling, Ginger Tullai, Laurie Giannotti, Ruth Beardsley

#### Call to Order:

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

#### Review Meeting Minutes:

Meeting minutes of March 17, 2016 were reviewed. Motion by Diane to accept. Ruth seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

#### State Forest & Park Updates:

**Pachaug State Forest:** Fred and Eric reported that the State Police want to put a firing range on private land next to the State Forest, one-half mile from the horse camp. The Horse Council will be opposing it. DEEP already opposed it at a meeting because it is a popular recreation area and people will not feel safe. CFPA cannot take a position because it is private land.

**Natchaug State Forest:** Diane reported that one toilet door is still hard to open. DEEP workers said they cannot fix it. The Horse Council has to supply the toilet paper. The common area needs to be mowed. The picnic tables have been found but they must be moved. The DEEP budget has no money for this. The Park Supervisor position is still unfilled.

The Natchaug SF and Mashamoquet SP in Pomfret are now connected thanks to Penny Foisey of the CHC VHP and Tom Nosal of DEEP. The trail also connects to the Airline Trail. A map has been posted on the DEEP website.

**Salmon River State Forest:** No marking has been done yet. Ginger rode the unmarked part recently. She will contact Edna Liberty and Roxanne Winslow to do it. Ginger has yellow diamonds for markers. Ginger reports that behind her house in East Hampton and East Lyme some ATV's are tearing up the trails and causing erosion. They are camping at the Markham Meadows Campground on Goff Road off Rt. 16. They also have campfires. She will call Enconn. Laurie says to report it each time because they may see a pattern and numerous complaints tend to get results.

#### Other Trail Reports:

**Hop River Trails:** Ginger removed the manure that someone complained about. It was already deteriorated and was not much. Ginger has not ridden the trail so she does not know if the trail surface was damaged elsewhere as claimed.

#### Legislative Discussion:

Eric distributed copies of CFPA's summary of what happened with bills of interest to CFPA from the last Legislative Session. The State budget cuts to DEEP of \$7 million and to parks of \$1 million will result in decreased maintenance and enforcement this year. Funding for trails and the Greenways Council was also cut. Eric will send us all a form letter and the timing so we can contact our legislators.

S.J. 36/Resolution Act 16-1 (the proposed State Constitutional Amendment to Better Protect Public Lands) passed both legislative chambers at the regular legislative session. It will have to pass again in the 2017-18 legislative session to make it onto the November 2018 ballot.

## **Old Business:**

The June Trails Day celebrations were successful. Diane did an equestrian presentation at Natchaug SF. CHC-VHP organized trail work and a blessing of the mounts at Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp

Lower Connecticut River Valley Horse Club and the Bridle Path Conservancy organized a work day at Pataconk Recreation Area in the Cockaponset Area with the CFPA and NEMBA with a total of 24 volunteers.

Eric reported that CFPA did 222 events in 133 towns. Connecticut has the biggest Trails Day in the country.

**CT Recreational Trails Kick-off Program** was held at CFPA headquarters in Rockfall on April 7<sup>th</sup> to recognize this year's Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant awardees and introduce the new State RTP program vs the Federal RTP which the state has opted out of. 9 Million dollars was available this year so virtually all of the grant requests were awarded. The Council will ask for another \$5 million in 2016. The Greenways Council is now responsible for reviewing the applications and making recommendation to DEEP on each application.

## **Airline and Hop River State Park**

A ribbon cutting for the newly constructed connection between the Air Line and Hop River State Park trails in Willimantic as well as a ribbon cutting for a new Canoe/Kayak Landing was held on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

**17th Annual CT Greenway Awards & National Trails Day Celebration** was held on Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Goodwin State forest Education Center in Hampton. The celebration highlighted the Air Line State Park Trail Greenway and James L. Goodwin State Forest trail systems. The Governor's Greenways Council commended five individuals, two volunteer trail committees and a non-profit organization that have made significant contributions to the promotion, development and enhancement of Greenways. There were two Greenway designations: the **Riverfront Parks in Hartford and East Hartford**, an Extension of the CT River Greenway – and the **Quinebaug River Greenway Extension** through the Town of Griswold

## **New Business:**

CFPA Field Forest trail in Durham has historically been and is still used by local stables to access Cockaponset. Riding through sensitive areas has been a problem but this year CFPA met with them and they mutually worked out a new horse trail location.

Ruth suggested that Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp be listed in Trail Rider Magazine as primitive camping. Diane will try to do this.

Eric received a complaint that 2 horses and women were in a pond at Goodwin SF. Laurie will find out if that is permitted. [Note after meeting: Laurie determined it is permitted.]

**SAVE THE DATE: The CT Trails Symposium** sponsored by the GREENWAYS Council will be held **Thursday, October 20th** at Middlesex Community College from 9:00am to 2:00pm. The all day event patterned after an event held in Naugatuck last year where various user groups spoke on state of trails in CT and trail development and issues, etc.

## **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the EAC will be Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at the Eversource meeting room located at 3333 Berlin Tpke., Newington, CT at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

## **Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Fred at 8:30 pm. Seconded by Diane. Unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Beardsley  
Acting Secretary, EAC