



## CONNECTICUT EQUINE ADVISORY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 57 Durham, CT 06422-0057 13<sup>th</sup>

### Meeting Notes for Thursday, March 21, 2019

**Call to Order:** The meeting was held at CFPA Library -16 Meriden Rd., Rockfall

The meeting called to order at 6:46 by Eric.

**Attendance:** Diane Ciano, Meg Sautter, Ruth, Eric Hammerling (CFPA) Laurie Giannotti (DEEP),

Guest: Gary Rutkauskas, Ruth Strontzer

**Excused:** David Frazzinelli, Fred Mastele, Ruth Beardsley

**Review Meeting Minutes:** The meeting minutes of September 20, 2018 were reviewed. Motion to accept  
by Meg 2<sup>nd</sup> Eric.

#### **State Park & Forest updates**

**Natchaug State Forest:** Diane reported that she was in touch with CT Forest & Park Association member Dave Raczkowski who reported that he did clearing on the trails in Natchaug and Goodwin Forest. She thanked him and he was acknowledged in the CHC Newsletter

**Pachaug State Forest** - Discussion on Gov. Ned Lamont revealed that the state has abandoned plans to locate a state police gun range in Griswold. during a press conference at the State Capitol in Hartford. The state had considered locating a 55,000-square-foot range on a 113-acre parcel near Pachaug State Forest, sparking opposition among Griswold residents concerned about noise from such a facility. Equestrians also got involved to get this project ousted since it would affect riding in the forest and camping at the Frog Hollow Horse Camp.

Eric noted that Representative Joe Courtney was also helpful in getting the state to abandon the gun range and the state is now considering to purchase it and have it become part of the state forest.

**Machimoodus State Park:** Ruth Strontzer (CT Trail Rides Association - CTRA) reported that the trails are in good shape. Some clean up was done. CTRA is hosting a Memorial Ride for Ginger Tullai. Donations will be given to the Friends of Machimoodus, who will also have a table set up. Donations collected will go to reestablish the old rock gardens that Ginger was intending to do as a project there.

UCONN Horse Specialist, Dr. Jenifer Nadeau set up a Survey Monkey to establish data on whether a horse camp is wanted in the state and what amenities equestrians are looking for in order of importance for self contained camping. Ruth worked with DEEP Supervisor Phil to get questions for the survey that DEEP would want to know. There are 9 questions on the survey. It has gone out to all equestrian organizations and shared on Face Book. Discussion tonight was on how long the survey would be up. Ruth is working with Dr. Jen who is the administrator of the survey and will get the results.

## Other trail reports:

**Bissell Trail:** Meg reported on the Bissell Trail (Windsor Meadows State Park. The trail is eroded badly in some areas and is not safely passable in some of the areas. She has patrolled there several times and it is in need of major clearing. On a recent ride in the area, she gave her name and contact # to a person from the Loomis Chaffee School who was questioning the horseback riding on the trails along the river on the property. She told him that the horses have been using the trail for years and the VHP members help to patrol and maintain the connection to the Windsor Boat Launch. Laurie spoke on the Bissell Trail plans. Ever Source is planning to build an access road to get to the power lines that cross the trail. Discussion is to have the road be stone dust as a multi surface material and to become part of the trail system. Property has been purchased to connect the trail section heading toward Hartford. The DEEP Park Supervisor to contact for this area is John Guglielmoni. Laurie will get his contact information to Meg.

**Chatfield Hollow State Park:** Ruth Strontzer (CTRA) reported that the parking lot that is available for buses (and trailers) is getting smaller. Huge deposits of soil is being deposited in the lot and is encroaching on the ability for buses and trailers to turn around. Trail from that parking lot has a huge tree down that needs to be cleared. Other trails in the park that she patrolled seem to be in good shape.

**Wadsworth Falls State Park:** Ruth Strontzer (CTRA) reported that trails patrolled were in good shape. There is one very rocky washed out trail that is difficult to trail on. She noted that one trail user with a baby stroller need assistance to lift the stroller over fallen trees and some washed out parts.

## Legislative Discussion

### **HB 7157 AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR BIKEWAY PATHS, RECREATIONAL TRAILS AND GREENWAYS.**

**Statement of Purpose: To provide funding for bikeway paths, recreational trails and greenways**

...For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power, from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate [ten] **twelve million dollars**. (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for the purpose of establishing a Connecticut bikeway, pedestrian walkway, recreational trail and greenway grant program for grants-in-aid to municipalities, private organizations that are exempt from taxation ...

**Passed out of the Environmental Committee unanimously.**

***Please CONTACT Bond Commission to ask that pass through Governor's Budget***

### **HB-7058 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GREENWAYS ACCOUNT.**

- **Statement of Purpose:** To ensure that funds obtained from the sale of greenways commemorative license plates are used for the development, construction and maintenance of greenways.
- Introduced by: REP. ROJAS, 9th Dist.
- Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

That the general statutes be amended to establish a greenways account, which shall contain any funds obtained from the sale of greenways commemorative number plates and be used for the development, construction and maintenance of greenways in the state.

***Please CONTACT Your Representative & Senator to "SPONSOR" this bill and ask that it be raised up for a vote.....***

Ask that this bill be raised for a vote as it clarifies that funds generated by the Greenways license plate sales are dedicated to the purpose for which it was established - to be spent on greenways projects rather than be diverted into the General Fund as it unfortunately has been for years. This bill will ensure that the funds that citizens pay out for their vanity plates goes to their intended purpose.

- **HB7347 AN ACT EXEMPTING SENIOR CITIZENS AND VETERANS FROM THE PASSPORT TO THE PARKS MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE**

**Statement of Purpose: To exempt senior citizens and veterans from the motor vehicle registration fee associated with the Passport to the Parks Program.**

This is a bill is controversial and many feel should it not be supported. The Passport to the Parks gives everyone benefits. It can generate up to 14 million dollars on an annual basis. The DEEP Parks and Forests need 18-20 million dollars annually to operate efficiently. Before this funding Parks were getting about 10 million from parking and camping fees, which went into the General Fund – Not all of that was given back to DEEP operations.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

The new DEEP Commissioner is Katie Dykes

**Next meeting:** June 20, 2019

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn the meeting by Eric 2<sup>nd</sup> Meg at 8:34 pm.