



CONNECTICUT EQUINE ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Meeting Minutes of June 18, 2015

Attending:

Fred Mastele, Diane Ciano, David Frassinelli, Ruth Beardsley, Laurie Giannotti, Ginger Tullai

Excused:

Meg Sautter

Call to Order:

The meeting was held at the Northeast Utilities Building in Berlin. Meeting called to order at 6:45 pm by Fred.

Review Meeting Minutes:

Meeting minutes of March 19, 2015 were reviewed. Motion by Laurie to accept. Ruth seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

State Forest & Park Updates:

Natchaug State Forest – Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp: As of 6/7/15, the toilets are there but locked, pending solar panel installation. A port-a-john was available. Two new picnic tables were moved by the DEEP to do the solar panels and we hope they will be moved back. Not sure where all the tables are at this time. Laurie Lundquist (DEEP) is looking into it. Laurie G. to follow up. Discussion of signage at camp. The camp was featured in a recent Quinebaug newsletter.

Salmon River State Forest: The bridge is open. CTRA had a big trail ride there and posted photos on Facebook. Got some press about opening. Laurie will call Kevin Nursick (DOT) about signage for bridge. Laurie gave Ginger the OK to put the trail markers up at Salmon River S.F. No one can get ahold of Roxanne Winslow to get the GIS coordinates from her for maps.

Other Trail Reports:

Maccamoodus S.P./Sunrise Park – Ginger reports that they got 3 new members for their board. About 75-100 people expressed interest in membership. Connecticut Valley Driving Club is helping with trail maintenance.

Volunteer Horse Patrol – Diane reports that in the past 12 years, they have done 16,472 patrols, 33,141 patrol hours and almost 1,000 hours of trail maintenance, for a total savings to taxpayers of \$645,782. In 2014, VHP saved taxpayers \$61,250.

National Trail Day Events – Discussion of various events planned. LCRVHC and NEMBA will be working on the Webber Woods section of Cockaponset.

Legislative Discussion: Laurie reports that RTP grants are up for consideration in the bond package. All are to contact our legislators to support it. Laurie will email the bill number.

Also, the Community Investment Act passed with a 50% reduction for 2016-17. Some funds will go toward open space.

Trail Surface Study: David, Ginger, Diane and Ruth reported on sending the study to various towns, horse clubs, agriculture departments, and Councils of Government. All will continue efforts to get it out.

Old Business: Laurie will follow up on putting a horse icon for permitted usage on the DEEP website for all state parks.

Tabled from previous meeting: 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.

CT Forest & Park Association (CFPA) appointment – no report.

New Business:

Somers trail project discussed. Motion by Diane, seconded by Ruth, to send a letter from EAC in support of it. Passed unanimously. Fred to draft.

Ginger Tullai as Second District representative discussed. Motion by Ruth, seconded by Fred, to support her nomination. Passed unanimously. Ginger to draft letter and bio requesting nomination. Ruth will contact Martin Looney as President Pro Tem of Senate to ask him to support nomination.

EAC impact and successes discussed. Social media postings discussed.

Laurie reports that DEEP is developing an app for rails to trails maps.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the EAC will be Thursday, September 17th at the Northeast Utilities meeting room located at 3333 Berlin Tpke., Newington, CT at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Ruth at 8:15 pm. Seconded by David. Unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Beardsley
Acting Secretary, EAC