

Equine Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes of December 18th, 2008

Attending:

Ruth Beardsley, Gail Kosakowski, Alesia DeFredericko,
Meg Sautter, Jan Collins, Diane Ciano, Judy Beliveau

Called To Order:

The meeting was held at the Northeast Utilities Building in Berlin, CT. In lieu of Chairperson Amy Stegall absence, the attending Council Members voted for Diane Ciano to Acting Chairperson for the purpose of this meeting. Motion to accept by Jan Collins, Seconded by Meg Sautter, all in favor, motion carried. Meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM.

Agenda:

Discuss Outstanding Member Appointments (2)
Discuss Mission/Vision Statement
Review and Revise – EAC Trail Goals
Discuss EAC Logo
Kelda Property, Newtown
Bluff Point, Groton

Previous Minutes:

Jan Collins raised the need for Meredith Berger's nominating District name to be corrected to read, **Chris Murphy (D)**, not Nancy Johnson(R). She also raised a change on page two, "**Senator _____**", is to be filled in as "**Senator Williams**".

Outstanding Member Appointments:

Diane Ciano brought to the Members attention that the Council still has (2) two Members not officially appointed to this Council. According to the "Substitute Senate Bill #1223, Public Act #07-42 signed in June Of 2007" states; The council shall consist of the president of The Connecticut Horse Council and six members from an organization that serves the horse industry in the state:

Position number "(2) one of whom shall reside in the second congressional district, appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate"

Jan Collins is still awaiting her appointment through Senator Donald Williams' office.

Also Position number (6) one whom shall also be a member of the Connecticut Forests and Parks Association, appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

Diane Ciano is still awaiting an appointment through Senator John McKinney's office.

It was suggested that a letter be written from this Council requesting the "Appointments" to be completed. The Council believes that both offices have had ample time to review and process both of these applicants' requests.

Note: this Bill was signed into Law in June of 2007.

Mission/Vision Statement:

Diane Ciano suggested a progressive Mission and or Vision Statement for the CT. Equine Advisory Council be designed. She will do more research and present her findings to the Council next meeting.

CT. Equine Advisory Council – Trail Goals:

Diane Ciano submitted a copy of the goals for council Members review. The goals were reviewed and then streamlined to present a line item approach to each goal in question. Because of time restraints the Council tabled line items #11-#17 for the next meeting.

Logo Design for EAC:

Diane Ciano discussed the need for a representative logo for the CT. Equine Advisory Council. She had referred to samples of the "Connecticut Greenways" and the "Connecticut Forestlands Council". Members and Guests were invited to come up with ideas and samples to present to the Council for review at the next meeting.

Kelda Property:

Ruth went to the DEP in Hartford to look over their Kelda documents. The most significant document was the Natural Resources Management Agreement dated March 28, 2002 between the Bridgeport Hydraulic Company, State of Connecticut (acting through the DEP) and the Nature Conservancy. The agreement proves for certain goals while allowing BHC to provide/protect the water supply. Article V is entitled Policies of the Agreement. Section 5.4.1, "Public Use & Recreation Policies," indicates that certain uses will be encouraged to the extent they are consistent with the agreement's goals, but only to the extent that permits and approvals are obtained from the Dept. of Public Health and other government

agencies, as appropriate. The procedure for obtaining permission is outlined. The agreement specifically lists on page 14 that "equestrian activity" is an appropriate form of public use (along with 10 other possible uses), with consideration for nature, intensity, location and timing of the use. Whatever uses were allowed by BHC before the sale were to continue until changed. Ruth saw several memos that noted that equestrian activity was not a permitted use by BHC. Diane later confirmed this.

Bluff Point, Groton, CT:

Diane Ciano and Meg Sautter made a brief discussion regarding the signage necessary to prevent accidental entry by a horse and rider team into the Poquonnock River section of the trail. The section in question is where the oyster beds are laid and unsuspecting horse and rider teams have inadvertently entered the water in that area thereby crushing the oysters underfoot. No signage was present to prevent any entry to this unknown restricted area. Specific signs should be erected to guard against any future unfortunate incidents.

Note: Diane added a memo addendum below to further explain the situation and proposed ways to improve communications.

Diane Ciano and Meg Sautter will confer with Laurie Gianotti the DEP Trails Liaison.

Further discussion of this issue is tabled until our next meeting.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, February 19 @ 6:00pm North East Utilities, Newington

Adjourned:

Meeting adjourned @ 9:14PM

Respectfully Submitted By:

Judy Beliveau, Acting Recording Secretary

December 18, 2008

Addendum:

Bluff Point Memo submitted by Diane Ciano

The Groton Shell Fish Association installed two signs at Bluff Point. One is near the trail head by the picnic area and one by the old town beach along the Pequonnock River that read:

Attention Equestrians
Horseback riding on shore
or in water is discouraged.
Please keep to inland trails.
Thank You,
Groton Shellfish Commission

CHC contacted DEP Supervisor, Jon Lincoln about the signs and he confirmed that there were no new DEP rules concerning Bluff Point. Jon was aware that the Groton Shell Fish Commission had installed the signs. He said their concern is over the shell fish beds and knew of no reason why horses could not be ridden in Fishers Island Sound (Bushy Point Beach). He recommended that CHC These signs need to be accompanied with additional informational signs that identify the river and beaches as well as identifying that equestrians can access, the shell beds and one to remind all visitors to stay off the dunes.

Also discussed with Jon was installing brochure holders on the kiosk to hold informational pamphlets (CHC Share the Trail and the Volunteer Horse Patrol as well as other organization's educational pamphlets (NEMBA, Friends of Bluff Point).

Recommendation is to work with DEP, organizational groups, Friends of Bluff Point and the Groton Shellfish Association to apply for funding for this project.