



P.O. Box 57 Durham, CT 06422-0057 13th

Meeting Notes for Thursday, December 20, 2019

Call to Order: The meeting was held at CFPALibrary -16 Meriden Rd., Rockfall
The meeting called to order at 6:45 by Ron Hocutt

Attendance: Ron Hocutt, Ruth Beardsey, Ruth Strontzer, Meg Sautter, Diane Ciano,
Eric Hammerling

Guests: Danielle Borelli, Vevette Greenberg, Gary Rutkauskas

Excused: Laurie Giannotti

Absent: 0

Review Meeting Minutes: The meeting minutes of September 19, 2019 were reviewed.
Motion to accept by after corrections by Meg Sautter 2nd Ruth Strontzer

State Park & Forest Updates:

Natchaug State Forest: Natchaug is still closed due to logging and clean up operations.

Naugatuck State Forest: Vevette & Meg walked trails and noted the large tree reported in September was cleared. Trails were in good condition.

Sunrise & Machimoodus State Park: Ruth Strontzer reported that she has met with DEEP Supervisor or Jack Hines. He is in favor of looking to expand trails on the Sunrise side, the proposal for a permanent horse camp and working on establishing "Ginger's Garden." Meg Sautter reported that there was a large tree down on the Sunrise side on the yellow trail. They removed some branches, but were not successful in clearing it.

Sunrise & Machimoodus State Park con't: Ruth reported that there was a very successful program with Stephen Gencarella, Professor of Folklore Studies at the University of MA, who walked the trails and told stories of the area. About 80 people attended.

State Park & Forest Updates continued:

Pachaug State Forest: No report

Bissell Trail: No report. Meg will contact John.Guglielmoni@ct.gov 860-242-1158 860-797-7059 mobile

Ruth Strontzer reported on several state parks and trails:

Chatfield Hollow State Park: Trails are in good shape. Some logging is being done on the upper portion. Buck Road is still very washed out, but is passable by horse.

Cockaponset State Forest – Weber Woods & Pattaconk: Trails are in good shape. LCRVHC is doing work on the yellow trail. Meg and Ruth S. checked out possible sites for proposal for a horse camp Jericho Rd. and Filley Rd.

Bluff Point State Park: Ruth mentioned that one of the pot holes in the parking lot is the size of a truck and trailer in length.

Other Trail reports:

Roraback Wildlife Management Area (Harwinton): Meg & Vevette reported trails are in good condition and the town of Harwinton trails that connect to Roraback are nice.

Salmon River State Forest: No Report

Naugatuck State Forest – Mount Sanford Block: Ruth Beardsley reported on a trail access mentioned in an article in the CT Horse Magazine last year by Stacey Stearns, who described a trail access. The trail access Downs Rd. in Hamden was closed and was rerouted around the YMCA Camp, Camp Mountain Laurel. The trail was in poor condition even to walk her dog, so she did not follow it through.

Mohawk State Forest: Ruth Strontzer reported that the CT Trail Rides Association (CTRA) has put in over 20 hours to re-route a trail that the beavers took over and is flooded. The president of CTRA has notified the DEEP Supervisor of their work.

Legislation:

Eric reported that there is no bonding for the Recreational Program and we will have to work at future bonding to be approved. The CT Forest & Park Association (CFPA) is working to get the state of CT back into the Federal Highway Program. CT is the only state that does not participate in the program. September 2020 is the deadline.

The CT Outdoor Recreation Alliance (CORA) is an organization supported by private recreational businesses to help businesses in leadership to promote outdoor recreation and work on a statewide trails map. CORA presented this at the CT Trails Symposium and will be working with the UCONN Trail Census to develop a Trail Finder Community Web site. He encouraged members to promote this organization and to learn how they can help. www.ctoutdoors.org

Eric also reported that 17 ½ million dollars in revenues was received from the Passport to Parks fee on vehicle registrations.

Legislation continued:

Discussion on the Greenways License Plate – Revenues go to the General Fund. It has been worked on in the past to get the funds back into the Greenways fund but has been unsuccessful in the past. This year is a short legislation session and unlikely to get this done because of the state's budget issues. Perhaps in the future we can get legislation to pass to change the wording that the sale of the license plate could be changed to a "Donation" to the Greenways Fund that would keep it from going into the General Fund.

Old Business:

- 1. Update on Horse Camping Project:** This was discussed previously in the reports for Cockapose SF & Machimoodus/Sunrise SP. Plans will continue over the winter months to present to the DEEP.
- 2. Update on 2nd Congressional District:** Ruth Strontzer was appointed to the Equine Advisory Council by Senator Looney on October 25, 2019
- 3. Discussion on 3rd Congressional District:** A replacement for member Ruth Beardsley was discussed. Danielle Borelli has come forward to apply for the appointed position. She will be submitting her resume to the EAC. Ruth Beardsley will remain on the council until her position is filled. Danielle is a resident of Northford which is in this district of towns listed below. **The appointment is made by the Majority Leader of the House, Representative Matthew Ritter.**
(Bethany, Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Branford, Derby, Durham, East Haven, Guilford, Hamden, Middlefield, Middletown, Milford, Naugatuck, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Prospect, Seymour, Shelton and Stratford)
- 4. Discussion on the CFPA Appointment:** Eric will follow up on his official appointment by the Senate Minority Leader.

New Business:

- 1. 4th Congressional District appointed by the House Republican Leader:**
David Frazzinelli submitted his resignation letter on September 20, 2019 for this position due to time and travel constraints. Vevette Greenberg from Oxford has applied for the position and will submit her resume to the EAC.
The appointment is made by the House Minority Leader, Themis Klarides.
This district includes the towns listed below with past appointees:
*(Ridgefield, Redding, Monroe, **Oxford (Judy Beliveau 2011) / Gail Kosakowski 2008** Greenwich, Shelton, Trumbull, Easton, Weston, Wilton, Bridgeport, Fairfield, Westport, Norwalk, New Canaan, Darien, Stamford, **Danbury- David Frazzinelli**)*
- 2. Request for Equestrians for DEEP Winter Festival:** Diane mentioned that the CHC-VHP is looking for volunteers to bring their horses **Saturday, Feb 1st** to this well attended event at Burr Pond State Park in Torrington.
- 3. Sadly, Fred Mastele, President of CT Horse Council passed away in November.**
CHC is looking for someone to take over this position. Ron Hocutt, 1st Vice President is Acting President until CHC has a special election.

2020 Meeting Dates: March 19, June 18, September 17 & December 10 or 17th (TBA) 2020

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting by Ruth Beardsley, 2nd Meg Sautter at 8:10 pm.