



CONNECTICUT EQUINE ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Meeting Notes for Thursday, September 19, 2019

Call to Order: The meeting was held at CFPA Library -16 Meriden Rd., Rockfall
The meeting called to order at 6:42 by Diane

Attendance: Diane Ciano, Meg Sautter, Laurie Giannotti (DEEP – Conference call)
Guests: Ruth Strontzer, Vevette Greenberg, Gary Rutkauskas

Excused: Fred Mastele, Eric Hammerling, Ruth Beardsley

Absent: David Frazzinelli,

Review Meeting Minutes: The meeting minutes of June 20, 2018 were reviewed. Motion to accept by Meg 2nd Laurie.

State Park & Forest Updates:

Natchaug State Forest: Meg noted that the directions on the DEEP website to the forest is incorrect and sends horse trailers to the bridge that is closed to vehicles. DEEP Laurie Giannotti will check the website and asked Meg to correct the directions if needed and to send them back to her. The Lost Silver Mine Hose camp still remains closed during logging and clean-up operations.

Naugatuck State Forest: in Beacon Falls area: Meg Sautter will follow up on trail report to get better directions to the location of the trees down and report back to Tammy Talbot (DEEP Western District Supervisor).

Sunrise & Machimoodus State Park: Laurie informed us that the new supervisor for the Gillette Castle Area is Jack Hine. E-mail contact: Johnhine@ct.us.gov

Pachaug State Forest: _August 23, 2019: Mount Misery Camp Ground and Frog Hollow Horse Campground are closed due to concerns of mosquito borne illness, including Eastern Equine Encephalitis.

Bissell Trail: Meg Sautter reported that she did try to contact DEEP Supervisor, John Guglielmoni, but did not get a return call.

Ruth Strontzer reported on several state parks and trails:

Chatfield Hollow State Park: There are a lot of bridges that need replacement. The parking lot mentioned in the March meeting has been cleared of debris and horse trailers can access it much better now..

Cockaponset State Forest – Weber Woods & Pattaconk: Lower CT River Valley Horsemen’s Club (LCRVHC) and the Bridle Path Conservancy (BPC) members are working on trails in Cockaponset and Pattaconk. Tom Elliott and Melissa Evarts spread and fixed gravel in the parking area at Weber Woods supplied by DEEP. Trees were cleared as well as overhanging branches that were blocking state boundary signs. The yellow trail near Pattaconck is hard to walk through and Tom Elliott will work on specs to get the trail in better condition. Some bridges need replacement.

Bluff Point State Park: Trails are in good shape. The parking lot has dangerous large pot holes that need to be fixed. Laurie Giannotti reported that the DEEP Supervisor Henry Alves is doing a great job in the area.

Other Trail reports:

Request for Equestrians for Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies:

There is going to be a ribbon cutting on the Bolton Notch section of Airline trail on **Saturday, October 12th**, and planners are hoping to have an equestrian presence there. CT Greenways Council member, Stacey Stearns is working with the trail manager, and will have more details soon (e.g. time, exact location), and is encouraging VHP members or other equestrians to attend and represent the equestrian community. There is another ribbon cutting on **Sunday, October 13th in Manchester**. It's at 9:30 AM in Charter Oak Park in Manchester. parking, logistics, etc. will be worked out. Stacey will be able to attend that one with her horse, but if anyone would like to attend that one, please contact her.

Roraback Wildlife Management Area (Harwinton): There will be a CT Trail Rides Association (CTRA) ride going through the town park. CHC member, Vevette Greenberg has contacted the Park & Recreation person, Suzanne Stitch and asked permission to use the town property to connect to Roraback. NEMBA members are working on bridges

Salmon River State Forest: Laurie informed us that the state is in the process of acquiring more land in East Hampton (*southern portion near Rte16*) that will add additional trails.

Regional Trail Crew: Laurie informed us that the seasonal crew of women that worked in the forest to clear trails during their summer are now down to 3 people and will be working through till the end of October.

Legislation: Eric Hammerling was not able to attend the meeting and provided an update to current legislation:

CT DEEP's Recreational Trails & Greenways program has spent all of its bond funding and needs to get bonding reauthorized by the General Assembly. The General Assembly didn't vote on a "bonding package" during the regular session, and they haven't yet held a "special session" to vote on bonding priorities. This special session may happen in October, but it is possible that it won't happen at all before next year's General Assembly convenes in January.

CFPA has been advocating for at least \$3 million in bonding to be authorized for the Recreational Trails & Greenways Program. [Here's a link to the "call to action" on the CFPA website \(which includes a draft email that individuals or organizations can send\)](#). It would be great if equestrian groups contacted their State Reps and Senators over the next few weeks with some follow-up to strongly support bonding for recreational trails.

Old Business:

- 1. Update on UConn Horse Camping Survey Data:** Discussion continued on the results of the survey. The survey was very successful. EAC members will continue working to compile a report in order to meet with DEEP officials to start conversations of opening two other campgrounds in CT for horses: 1. Sunrise & Machimoodus State Park (possible 18 sites) and another in the Cockaponset State Forest (3 possible locations to be looked at). Ruth and Meg will report on scouting out the possible sites in Cockaponset.
- 2. Update on 2nd Congressional District Appointment:**
Ruth Strontzer is still awaiting her appointment to the council from Senator Looney.
- 3. Discussion on 3rd Congressional District -** CHC continues to seek a replacement for member Ruth Beardsley.
(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)

New Business:

- 1. 4th Congressional District appointed by the House Republican Leader:**
David Frazzinelli will submit resignation letter for this position due to time and travel constraints. *(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*

Vevette Greenberg from Oxford has volunteered to apply for the position
- 2. The CT Greenways Symposium** is planned for October 24th at Goodwin College. Speakers will be there from the National Park Service, talks with Media Professional Panel (*radio & TV*) on how to market a trail system, Trail Finder system for the state (*on-line trail locator software*) and Office Policy Management. There will also be a session on Motorized Off-Road Vehicle Use.

Next meeting: Thursday, December 12, 2019

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting by Meg 2nd Laurie at 7:40 pm.