

Connecticut Greenways Council  
Minutes of Meeting  
July 12, 2022  
9:00 a.m.  
Via teleconference

The regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Tuesday July 12, 2022 via teleconference. Attending were chairman Bruce Donald, Bob Dickinson, Jay Annis, Aaron Goode, Kimberly Bradley, Emily Wilson, Cathy Hagadorn, Barbara Collins, Bill O'Neill, Anna Bergeron, Lois Bruinooge, Aaron Budris, Delia Fey, Andrea Gartner, Michio Agresta and Gwen Marrion.

Call to Order and Welcome: Bruce called the meeting to order at 9:03. There is no quorum present.

Chairman's Report: 1) Bruce said he will set up meetings of the trail summit planning committee and RTP process review committee. 2) Bruce will meet with DOT re federal funding of bike trails. CT is getting 60% more funding (\$16 million) plus \$6 million for the RTP and there are ARPA funds. Bruce will make sure DOT and DEEP identify important trail gaps and spine trails and create a hierarchy of funding. 3) Recent bids that were opened were very high – 30-50% over budget. Concern about where towns and others will get the additional funds needed for their matches.

CT DOT & Bike/Ped Advisory Comm.: Anna asked Bruce about the funding he stated is available and why towns are not completing their projects. Bruce said maybe because towns' matching obligations are higher. Anna said DOT should do outreach to towns to have plans ready when funding is available. A new program called TRIP is coming soon for towns to construct trails relating to transportation (not recreation only). Rural towns are eligible (based on population). \$15 million over three years, project minimum \$300,000, no maximum. Also, the Airline Trail/Farmington Canal connector study is moving forward. \$500,000 for design is earmarked for Middletown. East Hampton received \$1.4 million for a boardwalk portion of the Airline State Park Trail.

CT DEEP Updates: Kim Bradley begins her new position at DEEP July 15. Kim said she has been reviewing the RTP criteria and would be glad to work on the committee reviewing the criteria. The top priority is to get the funds out for the last RTP round. She heard that Laurie Gianotti will be contracting with DEEP to help Kim phase into the position. She said one of the main reasons she wanted the job is to work with the Council.

Old Business:

1) License plate fund: Bruce has not heard whether the sweep of funds into the Greenways account has occurred. Bill O sent comments to Brian on draft rack card.

2) CT Trail Finder/Census: Kim reported that the Finder has over 215 publicly available postings. Two interns are doing great work. Next steps are an events calendar and trailside services feature. Aaron B is looking to set up a technical assistance program. The first fee-for-service counter was placed in Redding. Emily said they will miss Kim and appreciates the Council's support of the programs.

3) Trail Summit Planning Committee and RTP Criteria Review Committee: Bruce said he will set up meetings.

4) SCORP: Bruce, Kim and Eric Hammerling discussed. DEEP requested a 1-year extension. Bruce would like to see broader range of opinions. Kim says a lot of data already exists that could be used.

Public Comment:

- Jay Annis met with an engineer and walked the area for the proposed extension of the Still River Greenway north from Brookfield to New Milford. The engineer didn't see any major obstacles.
- Bill O said construction will begin next month on the East Coast Greenway in Manchester south for access to Case Mountain.

Recap by Bruce: he will send meeting dates for the two committees. He is meeting with DOT and other groups to prepare for the new round of RTP grants.

Next Meeting: September 13 9:00.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55.

Submitted by,



Gwen E. Marrion