

Connecticut Greenways Council
Minutes of Meeting
June 14, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Via teleconference

The regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Tuesday June 14, 2022 via teleconference. Attending were chairman Bruce Donald, Bob Dickinson, Jay Annis, Aaron Goode, Kimberly Bradley, Emily Wilson, Cathy Hagadorn, Paula Burton, Bill Champagne, Barbara Collins, Bill O'Neill, Anna Bergeron, Brian Wilson, Lois Bruinooge, Aaron Budris, Jim Kulpa and Gwen Marrison.

Call to Order and Welcome: Bruce called the meeting to order at 9:03.

Adoption of Minutes: Bob moved, seconded by Paula, to approve the minutes of the May 10 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report and Legislative Updates:

- Tariffville center to Bloomfield along Route 189 – bids are in. Big increases in cost of materials.
- Plainfield 1 – to bid this year
- Southington 3 – to bid this year
- Anna attended a meeting to discuss streamlining the LOTCIP program. She suggests meeting with Hugh Hayward to talk about trail gap projects.

Bruce said it is taking a while for DEEP to get the RTP contracts out. This is affecting when he should ask Comm. Dykes to ask the Governor to put the new \$6 million in RTP funds on the Bond Commission agenda. This might be ok though because Kim Bradley was just hired and having some time before the next round of RTP grants will give her time to learn the position.

Bruce said our Council needs to revise our process for evaluating applications under the RTP. Wants to have this done before September. Anna offered to help review that process.

Brian said it is important to incorporate comments from the last RTP round. Said he feels the DEEP's processes are getting better. There are many retirements from DEEP and restructuring. He just sent the draft of the Greenways license plate rack card to Council members and asked members to email comments to him. Kim Bradley starts July 15.

Old Business:

1) License plate fund: send comments to Brian on draft rack card.

2) CT Trail Finder/Census: Emily Wilson is working with people at UConn to fill Kim's and Laura's positions. There is already a good partnership with DEEP so it will be good to have Kim there. Kim said she is excited about the new position and asked that she be kept in the loop about the discussion of the RTP evaluation process. There are 200 trail postings and over 1,000 miles of trails mapped. 50-70 trails are under review. Trail Census: 2021 survey data is available on the website. Completing the Air Line State Park Trail project.

3) Greenways Day: Bruce asked for feedback. Gwen said she liked the site because the aircraft doing practice runs and the trains going by show that there can be recreational and commercial uses in proximity to one another. She also thought the speakers' comments were a good length and would like to see more maps

and information about the greenways that receive greenway designations so attendees can learn about them. Lois said she was glad the ceremony was in person.

4) Trail Summit: Bruce said he didn't get the planning committee together yet and will send an email to members asking for volunteers to serve on the committee. Lois said the logistics and details of the summit are important and difficult for a volunteer council to do. A staff point person would be good to have to coordinate the effort and asked if DEEP is willing to commit staff time to it? Bruce agrees and said he should discuss with Kim and Brian. Paula suggested changing the focus so that more legislators are involved and that the size of the event requires at least 6 months of planning so is concerned that there isn't enough time to plan it. Lois agrees, noting that the Walktober event series deadline is in June. Bruce thinks if the committee meets soon it can be done.

New Business:

- 1) Kim Bradley starts July 15.
- 2) The SCORP committee met June 9. DEEP requested a 1-year extension. Paula represents the CT Outdoor Rec Association and said there is not a lot of representation of underserved populations. Gwen asked for an explanation of SCORP, noting that SCORP is part of the scoring criteria on the RTP application but none of the applications for the last round of grants had any scores under that category. Kim explained that SCORP stands for Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The State is required to have this plan in order to receive federal funding to acquire and manage open space. It reports how people use state lands and how the State is serving them. Required to be updated every 5 years. Brian said \$4 million per year comes through the federal program and DEEP is trying to get the program reinvigorated. Bruce thinks the SCORP evaluation committee will meet a few times a year.
- 3) Bill O asked how Bruce's Rhode Island presentation went and whether there was interest in the New Haven to Providence publication and the interstate link. Bruce said there was interest in the Moosup Valley Trail. Bill also asked if the Blackstone and Putnam link in the East Coast Greenway will be built. It's being discussed by MassDOT.
- 4) Bruce will attend a meeting of the newly formed group Hop River Trail Alliance, a 7-town alliance.

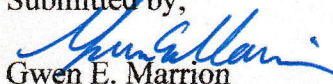
Public Comment:

- Jim Kulpa said he is seeing large increases in bid prices – i.e. the Bloomfield/Simsbury project was 30% over the engineers' estimates
- Jay Annis said Brookfield voted to use ARPA funds for the Still River Greenway north to New Milford. Phase 6 was approved as part of the town's budget which includes construction past the four corners in Brookfield. Also included is a crosswalk over Federal Road. Now 20-25% of the construction money is in place. A nice regional connection is being formed between Brookfield and New Milford.
- Gwen asked what Kim's roles will be. Brian will send the job description which includes many DEEP trail programs, consulting with field staff, a design component and grant work. Gwen noted that the Council can't treat Kim as though she works exclusively for the Council because of her broad job description and Council members should step up and participate in Council projects.

Next Meeting: July 12 9:00.

Meeting adjourned at 10:19.

Submitted by,


Gwen E. Marrion