



MEETING REPORT for Thursday, December 15, 2022

Call to Order: The meeting was held at CFPA, Middletown

The meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Diane

Attendance: Kim Bradley, Eric Hammerling, Diane Ciano, Meg Sautter, Ruth Strontzer, Vevette Greenberg

Guests: 0

Excused: Danielle Borelli

Review Meeting Minutes: The meeting minutes of September 15th 2022 were reviewed. Motion to accept by Meg Sautter, 2nd Vevette Greenberg

State Park & Forest Updates:

Larkin Bridle Trail: Discussion on getting a caution light at Rte. 67 crossing. Suggested to contact Naugatuck Valley COG: Aaron Budris & Richard Crowther

Ruth reports on the following parks:

Machimoodus State Park / Sunrise State Park:

There are 4 large trees down on the Blue trail leading to Salmon River. The bar way is down. Kim Bradley said there is no formal replacement for it. If you go pass the barway that field needs to be mowed. Tree on the Yellow trail is down.

Higganum Meadows State Park: The meadows have not been mowed. There is a beaver issue

Cockaponset State Forest: Beavers are still a problem in Weber Woods. Discussion on camping in Cockaponset:
New DEEP Supervisor for the Eastern District: John Guglielmoni John.Guglielmoni@ct.gov
New DEEP Supervisor is Martin Torresquintero martin.torresquintero@ct.gov
(203)915-9614 mobile (860)345-8521
Cockaponset State Forest 18 Ranger Rd. Haddam,

Areas of Cockaponset • Chatfield Hollow SP • Cockaponset SF • CT Valley Railroad SP • Eagle Landing SP • Millers Pond SP • Pataconk Reservoir • Preserve State Forest • Wadsworth Falls SP • Haddam Meadows SP
DEEP Forester is Alex Amendola (Nehantic)

The Preserve: Located in Westbrook, Old Saybrook, Essex
The parking is small area for horse trailers (2-3). The bridge is down. The Bridal Path Conservancy is willing to build the bridge. They are looking for money for the supplies. Kim Bradley mentioned that there may be money for this project

Other Parks or Forest reports:

Natchaug State Forest: Diane talked with Mathew Quinn – he is still working on getting a water source to horse camp

Naugatuck State Forest: Vevette Greenburg reports that the trails are in great shape.

Roraback WMA: Vevette Greenburg reports – South Rd by bridge – tree needs to be removed

CT Horse Council:

Volunteer Horse Patrol Report:

Diane Reports: This year of 2022 marks the 20 years that the CT Horse Council's Volunteer Horse Patrol has been working with DEEP, town a , private land trusts and private land owners. We will be celebrating our Anniversary at our annual VHP meeting in March. Date to be announced.

CHC Meetings for 2023 – CHC is now holding in person meetings -Bi-Monthly at 7:30 pm in the Community Room at the Eversource Building, 107 Seldon Street, Berlin on the 1st Tuesday of the months: February, April, June, October November & December

Legislation:

Eric Hammerling reports: The Legislative Session will start January 4th and will run through June.

Environmental Committee: The state budget is always of concern. CFPA will be monitoring this to make sure that the Environmental Committee has additional monies for our state parks and forests.

An effort is being made to raise staffing to adequate levels to accommodate dramatic increases in public use of recreational assets, facilities, and natural resources

For example, State Park staff ceiling is currently 83 full-time employees to care for 110 State Parks, 11 campgrounds, and abundant public facilities including 6 nature centers.

An example in just one area: There is 1 Full time Supervisor and 1 Maintainer that covers 21,000 acres. This includes 8 Parks, 3 forests, 6 Boat Launches, 15 Wildlife Management Areas, the Hop River Airline Trail and 4 other sites!

In 2003, the Eastern District had 55 full time employees – in 2022 there were only 36 (-19 positions). In 2003, The Western District 54 full time employees – in 2022 there were only 31 (-23 positions).

Planning & Development Committee: Work with the Planning and Development Committee for a property tax reduction for private land owners who grant right of ways for Greenways.
SB 129

Other Priorities:

- Continue state bonding investments for trails, open space, and agricultural land protection.

Old Business:

EAC Website Update needed to include meeting dates for 2023 and meeting notes March 24, 2022, June 2022 – meeting canceled), September 15, 2022 and December 15th 2022. We will also need a new picture up with Kim Bradley

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Outdoor-Recreation/Equine-Advisory-Council>

SCORP Update: DEEP Trails & Greenways Coordinator < Kim Bradley is looking for CHC-VHP hours and other information to put into the SCORP plan. Diane will get her the hours.

New Business:

12 Town Air Line State Park Trail Master Plan Workshops

Each workshop will go over section(s) of the 12 Town ALSPT Master Plan (findings and recommendations) with presentations of insights and findings from stakeholders and consulting team members.

The sessions are design to help accommodate stakeholders, businesses, event organizers and public.

Zoom Meetings are: Tue, Jan 10, 2023 5:30 PM EST, Thu, Jan 12, 2023 5:30 PM EST, Tue, Jan 17, 2023 5:30 PM EST

DEEP No Child Left Inside: Event will take place Saturday February 4th at Burr Pond State Park in Torrington, Bad weather date is Sunday, February 5th

2023 Meeting Dates: March 16th, June 15th, September 21st, December 21st 2023

Next Meeting: - Thursday, March 16th - * Note: Changing time of meetings to 6:00 pm

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 pm by Meg, 2nd Eric.