



# Connecticut Greenways Council

Minutes of Meeting

September 10th, 2024

In-person and Via Microsoft Teams

A regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Tuesday, September 10th, 2024 in person at VHB offices and via Microsoft Teams. The location, meeting link details and agenda were sent to the invite list by Kim Bradley.

Present were council members: Bruce Donald (Chair), Paula Burton, Kim Bradley (DEEP) and Christopher Roberts (DOT), Lois Bruinooge (LGV ED), Bob Dickenson, Rista Malanca (NWHCOG), Bill O'Neill, Clare Cain, Mark Weinbergeh

Guests attending were: Jay Annis, Dan Buckley (SGT), Aaron Budris (NVCOG), Ryan Carboni, Martha Conneely (Riverfront Recapture), Jim Kulpa (VHB), Emily Wilson, Caitlin Palmer (CRCOG), Nicholas Dostal, Norm Berg, Kate *Rattan*, Devin Clarke, Laura Kelly, Erin McBride, Tenia Saey, Bill Boles (NEMBA), and Rebeka.

- **Call to Order**

Bruce Donald (BD) called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

Audio recording was started by Kim Bradley (KB).

Bruce welcomed all.

Bruce indicated that we would likely hold Quarterly with others virtual.

Call for additional agenda items from Bruce.

1. Bob D suggested signage for class 1&2 E-Bikes.

- **Adoption of minutes.**

1. Call for any changes.

- Motion to approve: Bill O'Neill, Claire seconded. Passed unanimously.

- **Chairman's Report** – Bruce Donald (BD)

1. Project review

- a. Many in conjunction with VHB.

- b. East Coast Greenway.

- i. Various section underway.

- ii. New Haven Cycle track.

1. Connections to FHCT.

- iii. Southington

- iv. (ECG)Moosup Valley trail work continues. 55 new trail to connect with RI. Bill O'Neill suggested ribbon cutting with Golden Spike and Plaque redo.

1. Final punch list (JK)
    - v. *Quinebaug* river trail. Agreements are underway.
    - vi. Plainville 2, 3.
    - vii. Pomfret into Putnam resurfacing.
    - viii. Riverfront Recapture. Park update.
      1. Galleries being installed for historical background.
      2. Sept 28<sup>th</sup>, unveil master plan event.
    - ix. Bloomfield; Caitlin Palmer update.
  - c. Bill O’Neill indicated Manchester proposed cycle track to connect ECG.
  - d. Bill O’Neill asked Columbia bridge update. Jim Kulpa indicated in-progress.
    - i. Project has been ‘federalized’ for funding – re-financing.
    - ii. Kim Bradley indicated DEEP property, but DOT led project. Likely 2027.
  - e. Kim Bradley requested, and Bruce Donald has, a list of projects for Maintenance Agreements.
  - f.
2. Legislative:
    - i. Bruce is trying to insert us earlier in 2025 session.
    - ii. Meeting with DEEP (Mike Lambert, Jeremy Hall, others)
      1. On-going maintenance of soft surface trails.
        - a. PRCOG is sponsor of this.
      2. Looking for Legislative action to anticipate and fund programs.
    - iii. List of Legislative members for a “Recreational Caucus”.
      1. Model after successful MA work.
- **CT DOT – Christopher Roberts**
    1. Updates on projects.
      - a. Active Transportation.
        - i. Will name advisory committee.
      - b. Bill O’Neill asked for better signage for trails along Roadways.
        - i. Bruce and Chris will discuss off-line.
        - ii. DEEP is required to fund some signage.
        - iii. Claire Cain indicated that some signage is placed in different directions crossing roadways. She has a form she can share as model.
        - iv. Kim Bradley requested a flowchart for HOW to accomplish requests and installation process.
        - v. Paula Burton emphasized the importance of clear signage.
  - **DEEP - Kim Bradley (KB)**
    1. Update on Rec Trails programs.
      - a) Clearer view as to status of projects/contracts.
      - b) DocuSign process.
    2. NEED \$10M inclusion in next Legislative round of funding.
    3. State Park division is dealing with recent flooding along route 8 and surrounding area.
      - a) Are there emergency funds available. Looking into possibility.
        - i. Possible FEMA monies (Bruce)
    4. Symposium – old business section.

5. State land projects – Kim is available for any Questions.

- **OLD Business**

1. Connecticut Trailfinder (Emily Wilson)
    - a) Introduce Laura Kelly – New Coordinator for Trails.
    - b) Social Media accounts.
    - c) Trail Census
      - i. Data is updated.
      - ii. Temporary Counters going in.
    - d) Trail Finder updates.
  2. No News - Licensing program update – still can't order Greenway Plates
    - a) Kim still has RAC cards.
    - b) Bill O'Neill is trying to work with DMV distribution.
      - i. NEED more muscle to progress this as it's Legislatively Authorized.
        - During standard Registration process.
        - Dealerships.
  3. Communicatoin Plan/Website is still on list.
    - a) Later this month to lay out needs, partners, etc.
      - i. Who hosts these services.
    - b) What are requirements?
  4. 2024 Trails Symposium.
    - a) There will be a meeting following this meeting.
    - b) 12 presentations have been received.
      - i. People have been contacted that they have been accepted.
    - c) Kim is coordinating with MCC.
    - d) Rista is working on EVENT Brite outreach.
    - e) GROWING YOUR TOOLBOX theme.
    - f) Friday, Oct 4<sup>th</sup>.
    - g) Greenways Council (NWCOC) as FISCAL AGENT, not state.
      - Bruce: Enabling legislation allows CGC to do this.
      - Rista: Allows for funding other opportunities for this funding.
      - Bill O'Neill suggested a motion to accept Rista's offer.
      - Bruce indicated we're not ready for this and may not be necessary.
      - Bill withdrew motion.
      - Lois Bruinooge offered we may need to be open to accepting a fiscal agent for transparency.
      - Bruce made a motion.
- MOTION:** To approve NWCOC as temporary fiscal agent for CT Trails symposium and other possible activities.
- (i) Motioned by Bill seconded. Lois.
  - (ii) All approved, passed.

- **NEW Business**

1. Flood/Emergency Condition and recovery. Kim Bradley.
  - a. Rista asked about outdoor recreation grants that can help businesses connect with needs.

- b. Clare indicated that several funding sources exist.
  - i. Some Watercourses have changed. Re-build may be very different.
  - ii. Push trail recovery opportunities to DEEP for awareness possible action.
- c. Discussion on Magnitude of recovery and implications.
  - i. Need to also design in future mitigation and avoidance.
  - ii. This will happen again in other places.
  - iii. WHAT are some prior models for recovery, mitigation, prediction?
    - 1. Hurricane Irene? Vermont?
- 2. All Terrain Wheelchair Launch Demo Day, Dinosaur State Park SP Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - a. 5 State Parks will participate.
  - b. Pilot program.
  - c. Can trails be enhanced to support expanded use.
  - d. Process to reserve.
  - e. Working through Partner organizations.
  - f. Will be listed on Trail Finder and Trailside services
  - g. Will look at future locations other than State Park.
    - i. Additional funding for equipment and locations.
  - h. BRUCE: Opportunity for DEEP to prepare a WHITE Paper as best practice for other organizations to model.
- 3. E-Bikes (Bruce Donald) –
  - a. FVTC (Norm Berg) is working on policy.
    - i. Speed limits, Enforcement, Etiquette.
    - ii. Speed is most concern heard.
    - iii. Discussion on three classes.
    - iv. Multiple authorities in oversight.
  - b. ADA implications for ‘power assist’.
  - c. Classification (I, II, III) is confusing and needs addressing.
  - d. Some BPAC incentives are being offered for E-Bikes vs BIKES.
  - e. Bruce suggested coordinating with Sandy Fry CTBPAC, Bike WALK CT, etc.
    - i. Model ordinances?
  - f. Rista reminded about Local business value and Access improvements.
    - i. Suggested education vs. legislation.
- 4. Bill O’Neill: Wants to approach Commissioner with Guide to East Coast Greenway document to connect to New York.

- **Public Comment**

- There was no time for Public Comment.

## CHAT

Kate Rattan – SCCOG - I'll have to sign off a little before 10. SCCOG onboarded three new staff this past month including Helen Zincavage who is our Director of Regional Planning - she anticipates the SCCOG adoption of the SCCOG Regional Open Space Plan this month and has created a wonderful GIS Story map for the region. Emily Bigl, our new Environmental Planner, is working on a number of issues, including Brownfield Grants, flood mitigation, and EVs. Lastly, Debra Pierce, is our newest staff and will be supporting Transportation Planning, managing LOTCIP and our project solicitations. Notably, Ledyard and Preston are in

construction and design for multi-use paths that connect recreation areas, housing, and schools, funded by LOTCIP. TA applications were submitted for Windham (ECG) and Preston (extending a MUP spur from the Pequot Trail to the TriTown Trail). Locally, Groton is underway with a Bike plan.

**Bruce thanked all and concluded the meeting at 10:55.**

Next Meeting: Virtual Microsoft TEAMS; OCT 8<sup>th</sup>, Nov 12<sup>th</sup>, No December Meeting 2024, 9:00AM

Submitted by Dan Buckley 09/13/24.