



Connecticut Greenways Council

Minutes of Meeting

October 8th, 2024

Microsoft Teams

A regular meeting of the CT Greenways Council was held Tuesday, October 8th, 2024 via Microsoft Teams. The 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) Gillian Carroll Cathy Hagerdon Christopher Roberts (DOT), Bob Dickenson, Rista Malanca (NWHCOG), Bill O'Neill, Mark Weinbergeh

Guests attending were: Jay Annis, Bill Boles, Dan Buckley (SGT), Aaron Budris (NVCOG), Martha Conneely (Riverfront Recapture), Bill Champagne, Jim Kulpa (VHB), Emily Wilson, Norm Berg, Kate Rattan, Devin Clarke, Laura Kelly, Bill Boles (NEMBA), Rebekah Stein. Aaron Goode, Delia Fey, MG (Guest 2X), Nicolas Dostal.

- **Call to Order**

Bruce Donald (BD) called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

Audio recording was started by Kim Bradley (KB).

Bruce welcomed all.

- **Adoption of minutes.**

1. Call for any changes.

- Motion to approve: Bob Dickerson, Rista seconded. Passed unanimously.

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

Special thanks to Rista and Kim for a great Symposium. Thanks to MCC!

1. Project review

- a. 5 new projects, 9 miles for ECG being added.

- i. Working with partners at DOT for support.

2. Legislative: List of possible draft actions. (partner with various orgs, Bike Walk, Deep, etc. for input)

- i. E-Bikes. Proposed leg.

1. Proposed decal to all bikes showing label.

2. Motor power max 750 watts/20mph.

3. At least 16.

4. Bike safety class.

5. Statewide speed limits on all MUT.

- ii. Outdoor Rec Caucus.
 - 1. Bruce has written a proposed statement.
 - iii. Create Trail Maintenance funding grant (facilitated by DOT)
 - iv. Soft surface trail support committee.
 - 1. Bruce asked to be added to the committee.
 - v. On-going commitment from Gov/State for \$10M funding as line item.
 - 1. Timing for inclusion is critical and coming up.
 - 2. Mark W suggested going directly to House and Senate leaders. (Rojas, Wittner, Looney).
 - 3. Bruce is working on both paths.
 - vi. Set initial funding for Bike/Ped projects.
 - 1. Federal programs supporting 20% match required.
 - 2. Planning & Design.
 - 3. Capacity Grants (grant writers, grant admin.)
 - vii. Next is to meet with DOT for their wish list.
- **CT DOT – Christopher Roberts**
 - 1. Active Transportation SURVEY.
 - a. LINK in Chat
 - <https://live.metroquestsurvey.com/?u=s211#!/?p=web&pm=dynamic&s=1&popup=WTD>
 - b. Spanish version.
 - c. Intended to be WIDELY distributed!
 - d. Distribution plan:
 - e. Kate Rattan asked about Public Participation plan.
 - i. Chris indicated yes. Fairs, via COGs,
- **DEEP - Kim Bradley (KB)**
 - 1. Symposium!!
 - a) Good feedback.
 - b) Survey going out.
 - c) Topics already for next round.
 - d) Location applauded.
 - e) Thank you to UConn Clear for website.
 - f) MA event is on Saturday in Wooster.
 - i. <https://www.masstrailsconference.com/>
 - 2. 2023-2024 Rec Trails Grant program
 - a) Contracting follow-up.
 - b) Provided update at Symposium.
 - i. \$31M since 2015.
 - ii. \$19M of this has been in the last 2 rounds. Sig increase.
 - c) Monick is Admin for these contracts in DEEP office.
 - d) Next Round Fall 2025 will be tentative.
 - i. Rationale is to not overload the system already administering these grants.
 - e) Applaud Hop River Trail Alliance on Signage implementation.
 - f) Appreciation to UConn Trails team to take on CT Trails Learning Community calls.
 - g) Airline State Park Trail – Bruce will be interim manager for northern section.

- **OLD Business**

1. Connecticut Trailfinder (Emily Wilson)
 - a) Thanks for the opportunity to meet at the Symposium.
 - b) Support for the Symposium.
 - c) Support for the CT Trails Learning Community.
 - i. Call in for Networking. Open opportunity to present topics.
 - ii. Laura Kelly will be point. It'll be on Website.
 - iii. October 23rd at 2PM.
 - d) Trail Census
 - i. Q3 data being downloaded.
 - ii. Temporary Counters are running
 - e) Trail Finder updates.
 - i. Adding trails and mileage.
2. Rec Trails License program update
 - a) Kim has RAC cards. Distributed at Symposium
 - b) Bruce is trying to work with DMV distribution.
 - i. Dealerships.
 - ii. FUNDS will be used for small grant program. \$7,293
3. Communicatoin's Plan/Website is still on the list.
 - a) Later this month to lay out needs, partners (??? CT Trails, BPAB, etc), etc.
 - i. Who hosts these services?
 - ii. Kim had internal meetings with DEEP Comm team - 1 year ago.
 - iii. Simplified access.
 - iv. Paula asked if any updates would have to go through an Authority (ie DEEP) and add a layer of access.
4. Symposium Update – Rista.
 - a) Overall successful.
 - b) 113 people, 20 were walk-ins
 - c) 8 tables.
 - d) ~ \$3000 net.
 - e) Needed on-site coordinator. Site manager.
 - f) Sponsors,
 - i. NO Gold
 - ii. 3 Silver
 - iii. 5 Bronze
 - iv. 1 Table fee
 - g) Next year's event??
5. Short Term and Long-Term Fiscal Agent for Symposiums.
 - a) Can CGC be it? What is the exact enabling legislation?
 - i. Need legal opinion from State saying we can.
 - b) 6-8 months, \$1000 fee.
 - c) Mark W asked about the risks involved.

- **NEW Business**

1. NONE.

- **Public Comment/Events:**

- Thursday 24th Bike walk Ct event . ON Website.
- Monday 28th 4PM Boathouse, ECG Committee meeting.
- <https://crpa.com/conference>
- <https://www.ccm-ct.org/>
- Mohegan Pequot Bridge Rehabilitation meeting is November 19
<https://portal.ct.gov/DOTMontville0085-0147> the public could provide feedback about the importance of opening access for bikes and peds to this non redundant structure

Bruce thanked all and concluded the meeting at 10:33.

Next Meeting: In-person (VHB Headquarters) and Virtual Microsoft TEAMS; Nov 12th 9:00AM, No December Meeting 2024,

Submitted by Dan Buckley 10/09/24.