



P.O. Box 57 Durham, CT 06422-0057

Meeting Minutes of September 15, 2016

Thursday, September 15, 2016 6:30 p.m.
Eversource Building, Berlin

Attending: Diane Ciano, Laurie Giannotti, Ginger Tullai, Fred Mastele, Ruth Beardsley

Call to Order:

The meeting was held at the Eversource Building in Berlin.

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm by Fred

Review Meeting Minutes:

Meeting minutes of June 16, 2016 were reviewed. Motion by Laurie to accept.

Ruth seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

State Park & Forest updates:

Natchaug SF – Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp

Diane reports that she was contacted by the new DEEP Supervisor for the Mashamoquet Area, Matthew Quinn. Introductions were made regarding the CHC-VHP Supervisors and the Volunteer Coordinators for the area. Discussion was held regarding the condition of the camp and what agreement was made with DEEP and the CHC regarding the up keep of it. Diane told him that the agreement was that once the toilets were up that the DEEP was to maintain them. She told him about the rubber piece on the bottom of the door that is wearing out and that the other door lock is broken. It was not certain as to who was responsible for replacing the toilet paper, but a note about replacing the toilet paper was put in the bathrooms asking any users of the camp to replace it. She also told him that DEEP was to place a lock on the second gate at the fire road. Matt asked about who was responsible for mowing the common area as he was uncertain of the agreement made. Diane said that this job would not be able to be done by CHC since we do not have the equipment to do this. The CHC-VHP maintains the camp sites and does trail clearing as needed. Matt said he would check with his supervisor (Scott Dawley) to see if a written agreement of what is expected of the both entities could be written up.

Goodwin State Forest:

Diane reported that she has been in touch with the new Program Director at the Goodwin Conservation Center, Beth Rhines. They are in the process of designing a horse access trail from the Airline Trail to the parking lot, parallel to Potter Road, so that horses can avoid the road. She also wanted to inform the horse community that the harvest will be done in December - January and some of the trails may be closed. An update on the harvest will be posted on their website. Beth also reported that recently there have been horse back riders that are using the Children's Discovery trail that runs behind the center. They have put up signs that this is not allowed. Diane will put this out to the horse community. Information regarding CHC-VHP contacts was e-mailed to Beth.

Salmon River State Forest:

Ginger reported that part of the trail is marked. Ginger is planning to mark other trails using colored surveyor's tape, then Dave Buckley of DEEP will check them before putting on the yellow diamonds as more permanent markers. There is difficulty in marking the trail across the field; at this point it is unknown if it is private land and if permission was already granted to use it. Dave Buckley or Tom Nosal of DEEP can probably help with this determination.

Larkin Bridle Trail:

Trail maintenance on the Larkin Bridle trail has been noted by user groups. Mowing needs to be done. DEEP Nathan Hale responded to an inquiry of the trail's condition. Mowing machine has been out of order for several years, Current season has a 55% reduction in seasonal allocations, down from 10 full time employees to 3, main focus is on core parks in the unit which is comprised of 11 State parks, 3 State forests, 4 Wildlife Management areas and several boat launches. Nathan will try to get to it once the mower is fixed.

Concern for trailer parking is needed. The private lot on Christian St. has been closed. The only available spot for horse trailers is on Route 63 in Naugatuck. This 11 mile bridle trail needs other access points for equestrians. Laurie will look into possible additional parking on the Southbury end on DEEP property. There is money available from the State to improve it. [Note post meeting: Laurie reported that the property is not owned by DEEP after all.]

Machimoodus and Sunrise Resort State Parks:

Ginger continues as the Vice President of the Friends of Machimoodus State Park and reports that DEEP Supervisor of the Gillette Castle Area, Phil Yuris, has been doing a great job mowing the fields and maintaining the parks. Plans are to have a private vendor there for rentals of canoes and kayaks.

Other Trail Reports:

The CHC-VHP (Meg Sautter and Diane) attended the Steep Rock Association's annual picnic to meet and greet the Washington Depot's residents and introduce them to our patrol. They have asked us to officially patrol the trails of the Association and we look forward to partnering with them.

Laurie updated us on the general state of DEEP-responsible properties, including parks, the Air Line Trail, Lost Silvermine Camp and others.

Legislative Discussion:

Laurie reported that Eric sent templates 3 weeks ago to groups to get a letter writing campaign for the \$5 million in funding to DEEP restored. She will re-send the templates to the EAC.

Old Business:

Diane noted that the March 17th and June 16th 2016 meeting notes need to be posted on the website. Also, the address needs to be changed

Ginger Tullai is still waiting on her appointment to the Council by Senator Looney. Ruth left a detailed message for the person in his office responsible for moving this along.

Diane has not yet contacted Trail Rider Magazine about getting the Lost Silvermine Camp listed as primitive camping.

New Business:

CT Greenways Council:

Diane reports that Jan Collins has "retired" as the equestrian representative for the CT Horse Council. Jan has served on the council since 2009. Stacey Stearns from CHC has offered to take the position, has been appointed and attended the first meeting already.

The CT Trails Symposium sponsored by the GREENWAYS Council will be held Thursday, October 20th at Middlesex Community College from 9:00am to 2:00pm. The all-day event is patterned after an event held in Naugatuck last year where various user groups spoke on state of trails in CT and trail development and issues, etc. Stacey Stearns is putting up a booth for CHC. The focus will be on empowering municipal officials to advocate for trails in town. Diane will do a list of VHP patrolled parks, trails and conservation areas and send the Trail Surface Study so municipalities will know they have help in monitoring.

DEEP

Recreational Trails Program:

Laurie reports that the RTP - Grant Program for 2017-2018 is accepting applications. The deadline is December 15th for 2017 grants. DEEP has received 5,000 applications. A press release went out yesterday is on the Web Site. The link for the application is on the DEEP website too.

A trails census will be conducted by Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments and UConn with grant funding from the Greenways Council to create an economic study intended to inform a better understanding of multi-use trail use in the state of Connecticut and to make this important information available to trail user groups, administrators, government agencies and the general public. An application form is available for volunteers to collect information.

State Parks Map page has new CT Rail Trail Explorer Interactive planning tool for trails that can help to create your trail experience. It has GPS to get users to the parking lots, info on terrain and distances. Laurie asks that we try it and give her comments.

Laurie also reports that there will be a CTDOT Bike-Ped Plan update.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the EAC will be Thursday, December 15th at the Eversource Building located at 107 Selden Street, Berlin, CT 15th at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Laurie at 8:00 pm. Seconded by Fred. Unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Beardsley
Acting Secretary, EAC