



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

Meeting Minutes for March 21, 2013

Attending:

Fred Mastele as Acting President of CHC, Laurie Giannotti, Meg Sautter, Jan Collins, Leslie Lewis, Ruth Beardsley

Excused: Diane Ciano

Guests: Ginger Tullai (CHC)

Call to Order:

The meeting was held at the Northeast Utilities Building in Berlin. Meeting called to order at 6:50 pm by Fred.

Review Meeting Minutes:

Meeting minutes of December 13, 2012 were reviewed. No corrections. Motion by Leslie to accept. Ruth seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

State Forest & Park Updates:

Natchaug SF – Lost Silvermine Horse Camp: \$50,000 grant expired but material and work (2 solar toilets) already done by CHC. DEEP is renewing contract (grant) so CHC will be reimbursed. Work must be finished totally by end of the next extension (1 to 2 years). Natchaug kiosk has been damaged. CHC can repair with grant money. Discussion of getting motion activated cameras to monitor area.

Goodwin SF – Jan reported that it needs more trail markers. Meg said CHC got them, numbered them and put them up. A local person Jean Morrison told Jan that some have already been removed and destroyed. It was unclear if they were in the Goodwin part of the forest or the abutting Natchaug part.

Shenipsit SF – Discussion of the Sikes Road issue with the landowner blocking access. Information was sent to Amy Stegall to follow up; no additional report. Trails near the Senior Center: Jan is working with the seniors who want to put in a paved trail, to be sure they will let horses on it. No additional trail work has been done since our last meeting.

Salmon River SF & Comstock Bridge – Laurie reported that she had a 10/12/12 email with Bunny Joseph that Bunny was going to follow up finalizing the trails that all agreed would be OK. She had not heard back from Bunny. Ginger said that Dave Boone (Trail Manager of CFPA) was supposed to call Laurie with what trails were agreed. Laurie will call Dave. Campfire issue: Roxanne Winslow emailed Jan that NEATO was not starting the fires, but the local fire department did not want to go into the woods and asked NEATO to put them out.

Volunteer Horse Patrol:

Meg reports that it is 10 years old this year. There will be a ceremony on April 26 at the Newington Fire Station at 6 pm to commemorate it.

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Legislation:

New England Trail – CFPA is patterning this bill (Raised Bill No. 1015, where the State will recognize it as a designated national scenic trail) after the Appalachian Trail, but the draft mentions “primarily foot path traffic.” Amy objected to Eric Hammerling about this. He said he’d work with her on language so that “primarily” was not interpreted as “solely” or “exclusively.”

ATV’s – Debra Lee Hovey just wanted the Legislature to require registration in Raised Bill No. 5183. The Transportation Committee has now required DEEP to give ATV’ers land to ride on and have education classes. We should contact Debra Lee to ask if she still wants her name attached to the bill. Noted that the DOT has lots of land, and they should let them run the ATV program on their own land. Tax Exemption for Horses, Ponies and Farm Machinery – Senate Bill No. 961 came out of the Finance Committee. Municipalities can elect to exempt horses, ponies and farm machinery from taxation. We will decide if we want to support it.

Trail Surface Study:

Reviewed a draft power point of our study at the meeting. Leslie will email it to all of us. Laurie has money to turn this into a webinar or short video. We need more photos. Ruth will email Leslie her conclusions to add to the draft. Discussion of who to send it to: land trusts, dept. of public works, etc.

Other Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Summer Outdoor Journey – Laurie reported that the DEEP is planning this. Participants will tour State parks by a variety of modes of transport: hiking, biking, kayaking, etc. It will run over a 2 week period but people can join just for the day if they wish. Asked if the CHC wanted to have a one day event in connection with it. CHC members will pass along to CHC.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Ruth at 8:21 pm. Seconded by Fred. Unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Beardsley

Acting Secretary, EAC