



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

Meeting Minutes for September 13, 2011

Attending:

Leslie Lewis, Jan Collins, Meg Sautter, Ruth Beardsley, Laurie Giannotti, Judy Beliveau and Diane Ciano

Call To Order:

The meeting was held at the Northeast Utilities Building in Berlin, CT. Meeting called to order at 6:20PM.

Review Meeting Minutes:

Meeting minutes of June 14th, were reviewed, edited and accepted. Motion by Meg Sautter, 2nd by Ruth Beardsley. Motion carried.

New Appointments:

Judith Beliveau was appointed the State of Connecticut, Equine Advisory Council on August 23, 2011 by Lawrence F. Cafero, Jr., House Republican Leader.

Ruth Beardsley was reappointed to the EAC by J. Brendan Sharkey, House Majority Leader on August 2nd, 2011.

Web Page for EAC Update:

Laurie will update Judy and Ruth's appointment information as well as a group photo.

CHC website will be linked to the DEEP website.

STATE PARK & FOREST Updates:

Lost Silvermine Horse Camp Update:

August 24th – CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol members, Meg Sautter, Diane Ciano, and Bruce Wilder, worked with excavator operator Tom Russell who was hired to move boulders from the camp sites that hindered trailers and trucks from getting into the campsites. Boulders were moved to 'common area' in order to surround the area and block off the middle road access from trailers camping and parking there. Overhead branches along the camp road were trimmed. Scott Dawley was notified of the operation and that they had temporarily marked large trees with orange tape as a "Wish List" to be taken down by DEEP as they impede truck and trailer access into the campsites

SHENIPSIT SF. Update:

CT. Horse Council – VHP members will take on the responsibility to place the yellow-diamond trail markers for cross referencing with the new DEEP Multi-Use trail maps for that area.

Any conflicts brought to the table were resolved on site and the map was then approved and updated accordingly.

STATE PARK & FOREST Updates: (continued)

GOODWIN SF. Update:

Friends of Goodwin – Jan Collins, a member of the Group will contact them in the spring to review mileage trail to be marked with yellow diamonds connecting to Natchaug SF. Jan mentioned that they were planning to install a hitching post at the parking area.

NIPMUCK SF Update:

Laurie asked if any progress had been made. Jan explained that no progress has been made due to the lack of a parking area to the forest and that there was a “window of opportunity” to create a parking area a few years ago when a forestry operation cleared a staging area for their equipment. CHC had made contact with DEEP both in Hartford and with the then DEEP Supervisor Marilyn Aarstead and asked that a parking lot be made of the area once the logging operation was completed, but there was no communication back from DEEP. Jan said that the area has now filled in with brush. Diane asked if DEEP would consider clearing the area again to establish a parking area and access to the forest.

SCANTIC LINAL SP Update:

DEEP will be updating the trails with signage depicting – EAST and WESTBOUND directions at crucial intersections.

LEGISLATIVE DISCUSSION:

Recreational Liability law was discussed. Supposed discussion revolved around CT. Bill#52-557p - Which is said to provide enough liability for both horses and bikers and that they fell under other state liability laws for recreational usages.

OLD BUSINESS:

Trail Surface – Ruth has or will be in contact with several Park and Rec. Departments within surrounding townships from her home to request information regarding the surfaces of town owned land and their trail surface maintenance verses cost.

Leslie mentioned that that information should be readily available through the upkeep and maintenance of the Airline Trail. She was to do some investigating and get back in touch at the next EAC meeting or via email in the interim.

SCORP MEETINGS:

Diane reports that the SCORP was meeting weekly with a short time frame to get the plan ready for the federal money. A short survey went out to CHC membership list asking them to respond.

ADJOURNMENT:

7:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Judy Beliveau

Judith Beliveau

Equine Advisory Council Member