



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

Meeting Minutes of December 14, 2017

Thursday, December 14, 2017 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order:

The meeting was held at Eversource in Berlin. The meeting called to order at 7:10 pm by Fred

Attending: Diane Ciano, Fred Mastele, Ruth Beardsley, Meg Sautter, Eric Hammerling

Excused: David Frassinelli, Laurie Giannotti, Ginger Tullai

Review Meeting Minutes:

Meeting minutes of September 21, 2017 were reviewed. Motion to accept by **Ruth** 2nd by **Meg**. Passed unanimously.

State Park & Forest updates:

Natchaug SF – No Update

Salmon River State Forest: No Update

Larkin Bridle Trail: Diane reported that Laura Brown (of the UConn Trail Census project) contacted her to say that the trail was recently mowed and the bridge near Rt. 188 will be taken down and replaced with a culvert and dirt crossing.

Machimoodus and Sunrise State Parks: No Update

Goodwin State Forest: No Update

Great Pond State Forest, Simsbury: Meg reported that DEEP attempted to fix the sink hole a couple of times, but it continued to sink. The DEEP has now closed off this trail. The consensus was that there was no further action to be taken since the area is unsafe for horses.

Other trail reports:

Pachaug State Forest: Discussion was on the State of Connecticut along with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) that have chosen the most **desirable** location to build a new Connecticut State Police Training Facility in and around Pachaug State Forest on Lee Road, in Griswold, CT. This would have a direct negative effect on visitors, hikers, horseback riders, campers, hunters, kayakers, and many others who enjoy the outdoors. Local residents and organizations have organized to stop the project. The CT Horse Council also supports this effort to oppose the training facility at this location. Diane will put out a request through the CHC newsletter for people to contact legislators and file comments with DAS.

Legislative Discussion:

Eric led the discussion on

SUPPORTING Constitutional Amendment in 2018.

[A Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of the State to Protect Real Property Held or Controlled by the State” Resolution Act 16-1 – was passed in the 2016 session (as Senate Joint Resolution 36), and, as required for proposed constitutional amendments, must be passed a second time to allow the public to vote on this important referendum question in 2018. This Resolution would amend the state constitution to require that State-owned public lands must receive a public hearing and a two-thirds vote before being given away, swapped, or sold by an act of the General Assembly. In our region, Maine, Massachusetts, and New York constitutions already include similar protections for public lands.]

The Passport to the Parks was passed, which eliminates parking fees in all state parks for CT residents. A \$10.00 fee added to DMV vehicle registration (paid every other year) will generate funding for the operation, maintenance, and enhancement of State Parks. This money is to be earmarked for parks, but there is no “lock box.”

The 2019 Fiscal Year monies which will go to fund the Council of Environmental Quality, the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Environmental Review Teams.

Bonding for the Recreational Grant is no longer available.

Sadly, the Bonding for the Recreational Trails and Greenways Program is no longer available.

Public Hearing on parks and related issues – Eric reports that a hearing will be held at the Legislative Office Building in March. He will let us know the date.

SCORP Report – Eric reports it has been published and is about 500 pages. He will send us a copy of his comments on the report.

Old Business:

DOT Bike-Ped Plan: Tabled to next meeting. Laurie will follow up and report.

Trails Symposium: Eric reported that it ran well. Goodwin College was an excellent site. Next year there will be more emphasis on how to build trails. We will get Laurie’s comments at the next meeting. Laurie would like to start the planning process earlier for next year.

New Business:

It was discussed to possibly change the EAC meeting location to the CFPA Headquarters in Middlefield. Eric will get back to us to confirm

2018 meeting dates:

March 15th, June 21st, September 20th, and December 13th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the EAC will be Thursday, March 15, 2018, 2017 at 6:30 pm. Location to be announced.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Fred at 8:09 pm. Seconded by Meg. Unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth and Diane
Acting Secretary, EAC