



CONNECTICUT EQUINE ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Meeting Notes of Thursday, June 21, 2018

Call to Order: The meeting was held at CFPA Library -16 Meriden Rd., Rockfall. The meeting called to order at 6:45 by Fred

Attendance: Fred Mastele, Diane Ciano, Meg Sautter, Ruth Beardsley, Laurie Giannotti

Excused Eric Hammerling, David Frassinelli, Ginger Tullai

Review Meeting Minutes: The meeting minutes of March 15, 2018 were reviewed. Motion to accept Laurie, 2nd Diane

State Park & Forest updates

Natchaug SF - - NTD event - Had 3 people camping out. Other riders on Sunday. Met up with bikers on trails and check points. All went well.

Noted lots of large dead trees in camp marked to come down. Contacted Ted Sauve who working with Forester Ed McQuire - Most of these trees have died from the gypsy moth infestation and are being harvested while they still have some value. Some of the lumber goes to the DEEP sawmill, but the man has retired, so they are hoping to get someone, as they make the picnic tables from them. Ted said he would contact Ed, but it looks like harvest will not start until August and possibly go into the fall. It has not gone out to bid as of yet. I asked that we could get notify as the date comes closer so that we can put a sign up at the kiosk and send out notices. I asked if I could put his number on the notice and he said it would be fine. I sent a picture of one tree we would like to come down because of its position at the bend in the turnaround. It is difficult to negotiate the turn with a large trailer. I also notified him that one of the fans in the solar toilet was not working. He said he would send someone up to check it. Note: Matt Quinn works under him.

Goodwin State Forest - No report

Pachaug State Forest - No report

Machimoodus/Sunrise State Park: *From Ginger:* "My updates are Machimoodus /Sunrise Resort FOMS/CTRA equine campout fundraiser was a success 6 /1 - 6/3. I am making a survey for possible horse camp sites within sunrise for rough camping to see if enough interest exists for Phil Yuris to pursue. I will distribute soon.

Meg noted that some of the trails need head clearance.

Salmon River State Forest: No update

Larkin Bridle Trail: Diane reported that there has been communication with Nathan Hale regarding downed trees from the storm. Larkin has been cleared from Kettletown Rd moving east to Christian, Our other reports are on his list include Yellow universal signs" *that encourage Oxford folks to show courtesy (or similar language) - Been getting some complaints so I'd like to put some up if possible. Also seems to be a mixed understanding from folks that it's a "Bridle Trail" and not a "State Park Trail"*

Laurie reported a note from Karen Svetz, P.E. Regional Transportation Engineer, that the engineer for the Town of Oxford has submitted final design plans for Hawley Road Reconstruction Project which will include 3 parking spots on each side of the road.

Other trail reports:

Diane reported on the **Volunteer Horse Patrol Statistics for 2017:**

- For 2017, we had a total of **876 patrols**. There were **1,661 patrol hours** logged saving the state (that's you and me!) **\$22,640.00** for 2017 alone!

The total savings of our 14 years in volunteer service hours is **\$772,720** !
The 15 year totals include **19,106 Patrols**, **39,647 Patrol Hours**

Since 2003 Totaling 39,647 Hours with 19,106 Patrols Saving Connecticut Taxpayers \$772,720!!!

Legislative Discussion

FAILED TO PASS:

Save Pachaug State Forest Initiative. There were bills and amendments presented to stop the Firearms Training Facility. We are hopeful that this can be addressed in next years Legislative session.

The State of Connecticut along with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) 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. Pachaug State Forest (part of the Last Green Valley) consists of 27,000 acres of dense forest and wildlife, precious wetlands and streams, and is a flyway for migrating birds. Area residents as well as all those that utilize the forest banded together to form Friends of Pachaug Forest. CT residents know that this facility would have a direct negative the 2-mile radius effect on visitors, hikers, horseback riders, campers, hunters, kayakers, and many others who enjoy the outdoors.

There was a Scoping meeting to make comments to the on Tuesday, June 5th. CHC submitted written comments against a this facility

PASSED: [SB 429](#) - Passport to the Parks - was passed, which eliminates parking fees in all state parks. 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.

PASSED: [SJ 35](#), "Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Protect Real Property Held or Controlled by the State" This bill had 70 co-sponsors. This Resolution amends 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. It is only through this means that we can ensure that the voices of those who truly own the land are actually heard and a mandate to dispose of the land truly exists. **Note: This is just this is just the first step, we'll need everyone we can get to vote in favor of the amendment come November.**

PASSED: **Electric Bikes:** Laurie noted that the "E" Bike Legislation passed. These can legally rode on any paved or stone dust trails.

Eric submitted his Report:

- 1) SJ 35 (now [Resolution Act 18-1](#)) passed the General Assembly with the required 3/4ths margin, which means there will be a question on the ballot this November (the correct answer is "Yes") to support amending the state constitution to protect public lands by a) requiring a public hearing, and b) requiring a 2/3rds majority vote for DEEP or DoAg properties that the General Assembly proposes to sell, swap, or give away. CFPA has formed a 501c4 organization called the "Protect CT Public Lands Coalition, Inc." for the purpose of advocating in support of the ballot measure. Individuals or organizations who would like to contribute to the effort with funding, advocacy support, or otherwise are encouraged to contact me for more info.
- 2) It would be great if the organizations (individual members are not necessary) on the EAC would write to the Governor to request that he include bonding for the recreational trails & greenways program on the next Bond Commission Agenda. See attached letter that CFPA submitted, and feel free to utilize pieces of it for your requests as you wish.

Discussion was on the Bond Commission which will meet in July. Fred will write a letter on behalf of CHC & EAC

Old Business:

Laurie said that both studies of the Trail Surface Plan and the CHC-Volunteer Horse Patrol Trail Use Study are up on the Greenways and EAC websites.

New Business:

Trail Census: Laurie is looking for what number of miles on trails that are patrolled by CHC-VHP. Diane said this is difficult as the Trail Use Study recorded hours and not miles.

Discussion on the Trail Census Logo. Diane contacted Kristina Kelly, CT Trail Census Coordinator regarding that a horse symbol was not included on the logo and that this may cause some people to think that they are not included as a user group on trails. Laurie also brought this up to Kristina. She said that it is too late to change the actual of the logo, but that horses and other users groups icons will be incorporated into any of the places that the logo such as the website, newsletters and Facebook page. She has also added a proposal to the CT Trail Census meeting agenda to move the counter for the Larkin Bridle Trail from Riggs Street to Route 63, where Diane suggested would have larger counts, since it is the only large parking lot that people can access the trail, including horse trailers. Thursday morning.

West Rock Ridge State Park: Ruth asked if there was parking for horse trailers and where. Laurie will get her the contact info for the Supervisor Jill.

Airline Trail - Portland: Discussion on the Portland Connector and concern was brought up by Fred. Laurie said that the town owns the easement and will give the contact information for the committee working on it.

NO Child Left Inside - Diane reported that Denise Ciano and herself represented the CHC-VHP at the Wharton Brook State park in Wallingford for the Kick off event for their summer program. It was a rainy day, but the count was 500 participants.

CT GREENWAYS SYMPOSIUM - Laurie reported that the Symposium will take place on Thursday, October 25th at the Goodwin College. The theme will be "Trails Connecting Communities and People." There will be a speaker from Kingdom Trails (VT). The CT Horse Council will speak on Trail Etiquette.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting by Ruth 2nd Meg

Next meeting: September 20, 2018