



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

Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2017

Thursday, March 16, 2017 6:30 p.m.
Eversource Building, Berlin

Attending: Fred Mastele, Diane Ciano, Meg Sautter, Ginger Tullai, Laurie Giannotti

Excused: Eric Hammerling, Ruth Beardsley and David Frassinelli

Call to Order:

The meeting was held at the Eversource Building in Berlin.
Meeting called to order at 6:30 by Fred Mastele

Review Meeting Minutes:

Meeting minutes of December 15, 2016 were reviewed. Motion by Meg to accept.
Ginger seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

State Park & Forest Updates:

Salmon River State Forest: There is no update.

Machimoodus and Sunrise Resort State Parks: DEEP Supervisor Phil Yuris is planning a clean up and to restore the rock gardens. No dates have been set up for this event. There is a plan to walk the Machimoodus and Sunrise State Park on National Trails Day weekend, Saturday June 3rd. On Sunday June 4 - "Walk the Sunrise" with Representative Melissa Zibron and the history of the Sunrise Resort will be told.

Hurd State Park and Bluff Point: Following up on the December report regarding the pot holes in the road leading to the Hurd parking lot, Ginger has been in contact with Dean and the Dept. Of Public works. The town owns half of the road in East Hampton.

Other Trail Reports:

Laurie reports that Phil Yuris is organizing a CFP America Corp. event for 4 weeks in October or November. They will be working on Devils Hop Yard, Machimoodus and Sunrise state parks. At Devils Hop Yard they will be working on a footbridge and rebuilding a large covered bridge.

Bluff Point - Regarding the discussion of the Bluff Point Parking lot, Laurie reported that Henry Alves is the DEEP supervisor for that area.

Sunrise/Machimoodus State Park - There is a planned first time equestrian camp out on June 16, 17, & 18. It will be organized by the CT Trail Riders Association (CTRA). There will be a Poker & Judged Obstacle Ride.

Goodwin State Forest is doing a harvest. The 15 mile multi use trail is being rerouted.

Larkin Bridle Trail - Laurie reported that resurfacing, drainage and a parking lot near Curtiss Road is still in the works. Discussion on the reported bridge that has rotten planks needing to be replaced.

National Trails Day Events discussed:

Cockaponset State Forest - Pattaconk Reservoir Recreation Area - Yellow blazed trail. Members of Bridle Path Conservancy (BPC), CT Forest & Park Assoc. (CFPA) and the Lower CT River Valley Horsemen's Club (LCRVHC) will hold their 11th annual "combined arms" trail maintenance event. Projects will include; brushing, blazing, and treadway improvement.

Machimoodus and Sunrise Resort State Parks - Events will be held Saturday 6/3 and Sunday 6/4 as mentioned in above report

Natchaug State Forest - Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp - The CT Horse Council and Volunteer Horse Patrol will host a camp out, Blessing of the Mounts and trail rides for the weekend. CTRA will also host a ride on Sunday.

Legislative Discussion:

CFPA LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT - SJ 39 - Constitutional Amendment to better protect public lands from being given away, sold, or swapped without due public participation
Action Alert: Ask Your State Legislators to Co-sponsor SJ 39

Discussion to oppose HB 7278 - Conveyance Act . There are three parcels of land are going to the GAE Committee to be transferred:

Section 3. Proposes to give away 8.46 acres of Shade Swamp Sanctuary Wildlife Management Area owned by DEEP to the town of Farmington for "municipal purposes and for use by a nonprofit entity for cemetery purposes." This is highly valuable land (high and dry, easy access, easily could be worth ~\$2 million in fair market value) that was acquired by the State decades ago with a grant from the White Memorial Foundation (which may need to be re-paid).

- **Section 9.** Proposes to convey 11.65 acres [apparently this is a drafting error and it should be 4 acres] from Babcock Wildlife Management Area in Colchester to private individuals (Jamie and Ann Fellows) for \$10,000. No specific use of the property appears to be specified, but apparently this is to get better access to their property which they plan to develop. Conveying public land to private individuals is rarely proposed, and it is unknown whether the \$10,000 they would give in consideration is based upon any kind of fair market valuation.

- **Section 10.** Proposes to convey approximately 10 acres of DEEP land at no cost to the town of Groton. It isn't clearly stated in the bill where the 10 acres are located on part of a larger DEEP property near the former Mystic Oral School. The town maintaining the land as public open space is unlikely since the bill specifies that the town "shall use said parcel of land for economic development purposes."

Old Business:

DEEP No Child Left Inside Winter Festival held ***Saturday, February 4th***, at Burr Pond State Park in Torrington had over 600 attendees.. CHC-VHP brought two horses to the event to meet and greet the visitors.

DEEP Recreational Trails Program:

Laurie reported that they received 50 applications, totaling over \$9 million in requested funds. Money Available is \$400,000. - 6 proposals were distributed.

DOT Bike-Ped Plan: Update will be in May.

New Business:

The Greenways Council member, Stacey Stearns is looking for nominations for their annual awards to individual and groups for their trail advocacy work. The event will kick off National Trails Day on Friday, June 2nd. Location to be announced.

Laurie suggested and gave information on Teleconferencing our meetings for those that can not attend in person. She will send Diane the information.

The CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol annual meeting is **Saturday March 18th** at the Newington Fire House, Newington. This will be an open house for all interested in joining this state wide effort.

Recreational Trails Program: Hopefully there will be 5 million for the program available

Other:

SCORP Survey: On line Survey - CHC has sent out information to members and other organizations to do this survey on line. Fred is on the committee.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the EAC will be Thursday, June 15th 2017.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Meg at 7:52 pm. Seconded by Diane.
Unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Ciano
Acting Secretary, EAC