



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

Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2017

Eversource Building, Berlin.

Attending: Fred Mastele, Diane Ciano, Meg Sautter, Ginger Tullai, Ruth Beardsley and David Frassinelli (*conference call*)

Excused: Eric Hammerling, Laurie Giannotti

Call to Order:

The meeting was held at the Eversource Building in Berlin. David Frassinelli was in attendance through teleconference call. The meeting called to order at 6:40 pm by Fred Mastele. Meg 1 - Diane 2

Review Meeting Minutes:

Meeting minutes of March 16, 2017 were reviewed. A correction was made- Ginger was in attendance to the meeting. Motion to accept with correction by Meg. 2nd Diane.

State Park & Forest Updates:

Natchaug State Forest – Lost Silver Mine Horse -

The CT Horse Council and Volunteer Horse Patrol hosted a camp out, Blessing of the Mounts and trail rides for the weekend. CT Trail Riders Association (CTRA) also hosted a ride on Sunday.

The common area of the camp has still not been cut since the fall. The weeds are growing up as well as trees and is very unsightly. Diane notified Laurie and was told that DEEP is low on seasonal help and to again request mowing to the Supervisor, Matthew Quinn. An e-mail will be sent asking that the common area be mowed.

Fred suggested clearing work day and to see if we can Brush hog

Goodwin State Forest: - No update to report on logging status

Salmon River State Forest:

Some of the trails along Bull Hill Rd and the other side of the bridge were cleared and temporarily painted with Meg Sautter, Diane Ciano, Ginger Tullai and Roxanne Winslow.

Larkin Bridle Trail

Meg reported that *the bridge that was previously reported to have unsafe rotted boards 2 YEARS AGO on it, finally gave way and did have a horse's foot go through. It was reported to DEEP with photo. Laurie said the work order was pulled to get it fixed. In the meantime markers were placed at the bridge to warn users not to use it. There is a go around.* Minimal damage to the horse was reported.

Machimoodus and Sunrise State Parks:

Ginger reported that the National Trails Day events included a hike with Smokey Bear with approximately 18 people in attendance. Representative Melissa Zibron did a walk in Sunrise with Larry Johnson who narrated the history of the park. There were approximately 50 people in attendance including prior employees.

Up coming Campout: 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 on Sunday. Proceeds will go to the Friends of Machimoodus for insurance.

Update/correction: Ginger reports that the Friends of Machimoodus" corporation is registered with the state and that they have their ein# but not their 501 c 3 yet.

Legislative Discussion:

Members noted that Eric Hammerling (CFPA) has been very helpful in updating members regarding legislative issues.

SJ 39 - *Did not pass - there is another chance in 2018* Apparently, it was not enough to have 46 bi-partisan co-sponsors, over 130 supportive partner organizations and businesses, positive media coverage, and many calls and emails from advocates. In most years, that should have been more than enough to get SJ 39 passed !

HB 7278 - *Did not pass*

Old Business:

SCORP Survey: Fred reported that the data has been taken and the Plan is in the process of being written.

DOT Bike-Ped Plan: Update will be in May? - TABLED TO NEXT MEETING .

New Business:

The CT Greenways Council held its Annual Awards Ceremony on Friday June 2nd. 2017 Officially Designated Greenways are the **Crosstown Trail**, South Windsor and the **New Milford River Trail Greenway**. Among the awards given out were two CHC-VHP members: **Ginger Tullai** received the Council's " Unsung Hero Award" for her work in VHP and establishing the Friends of Machimoodus State Park and **Ann Moses** received the Volunteer Achievement Award for her work with the Town of Somers and Land Trust.

The CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol held their annual meeting on Saturday March 18th
Celebrating 14 Years of Service 2003 - 2016.

- For 2016, we had a total of **1,284 patrols**. There were **2,426 patrol hours** logged saving the state **\$47,307.00 for 2016 alone!**
Our 14 years of volunteer hours total 37,980 hours Saving of \$740,610.00 !!!!

Discussion to create a study of the 14 years of data collected.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the EAC will be Thursday, September 21st, 2017 at the Eversource Building located at 107 Selden Street, Berlin, CT at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend. Conference call will be available.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Meg at 7:23pm. Seconded by Ruth.
Unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Ciano
Acting Secretary, EAC