

Connecticut Horse Council

June 6, 2023 Minutes

To order by President Diane Ciano

Secretary's report was accepted with changes. 1. Meg Sautter 2. Laurieanne Goulet with amendments of total hours.

Education -No report from Dr. Nadeau. Rebecca Harnish suggested we reach out to Nonewaug

Health & Welfare - Laurie tried to find out about the 2 people that were hurt in Machimoodus and DEEP had and they will get together to do this.

Legislation - Eric Of CFPA sent in his Legislative report: There were a few items in the Governor's Budget proposal that we support strongly, e.g. \$5 million/year (in both FY 2024 & 2025) in bonding for the recreational trails & greenways program. There is also \$500,000 for all-terrain wheelchairs for the State Parks (which they support with some reservations about the personnel at DEEP that it will take to ensure they are used) and \$500,000 for urban forestry investments that they support. The Passport to the Parks is left intact to support Park operations and maintenance.

In CFPA's testimony to the Appropriations Committee on the budget proposal, they support the elements of the Governor's Budget, but also request an additional 15 Park Maintainers for DEEP to address their significant needs.

Note: Eric Hammerling, has left the position of Director and will continue his conservation career at the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection as Director of the Office of Planning and Program Development (OPPD)

Trails - Larkin Bridle Trail: CHC contacted Richard Crowther of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Government (NVCOG) to see if we can get flashing light installed at the crossing at Rte. 67 which very is dangerous. NVCOG will work with the Town of Southbury and DOT to possibly get the light installed. They have placed a motor vehicle counter at the sight.

Devils Hopyard State Park: Meg Sautter reported that DEEP has placed boulders on the side of the Mitchell Road and it is very difficult for trailers to pull in.

Mohawk & Natchaug State Forests: Meg reports clean-up of trails with others. Natchaug still does not have the well installed.

Hurd Park State Park: Ruth Strontzer reported there is a tree down over near Seymour section, They brush hogged the Higganum area. There is a large tree on the white trail. Ruths map had her swimming the CT river.

New park supervisor for the Machimoodus, Hurd and Devils Hopyard. He is aware new bridges need to be made that are horse friendly. The family that owned Sunrise would like to donate 2 benches with their family names on it. There will be a cleanup of Sunrise on the 17 of June.

Outreach Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Plan Ann Moses, Meg Sautter and Diane were on the conference call and gave comments to the SCORP survey that will be going out to the general public (the first one was out to outdoor enthusiasts. Some of the questions we felt were not necessary.

12 Town Air Line State Park Trail Master Plan Workshops for 50-mile corridor:

CHC members attended zoom workshops and gave their input for the plan

- The **Air Line State Park Region Master Plan** can be found both on the CTRC&D website [Air Line State Park Trail - Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development \(ctrcd.org\)](https://www.ctrcd.org) and the [Home - Airline State Park \(alsptregion.org\)](https://www.alsptregion.org)

- The new ALSPT Region organization will meet up in Fall 2023 to talk about the next steps for the plan and website, supported by grant funding from CT DEEP Rec Trails Program.

NO Child Left Inside – Meg represented the CHC-VHP at Straton Brook State Park. Not a lot of people attended because of weather conditions. Those who were there loved the horse.

CT Greenways Council: CHC is looking for someone to replace Stacey Stearns as an equestrian representative on The GREENWAYS Council. The council meets at 9:00 am on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (except August, and December) virtually and/or at the offices. The Equestrian Representative is appointed by the Governor

National Trails Day Weekend – Friday June 2nd, the CT Greenways Council Awards

The Reddington Rock Riding Club received the CT Greenways award for the work on trails in Shenipsit SF and local Land Trusts and Town properties Open Space.. The ceremony took place at Hammonasset State Park (Ann Moses, Sue Tarcani, Brie Messier and Arlene Doherty were there to receive the award.

Saturday, June 3rd The following organizations participated in National Trails Day weekend, to promote trails on that day and build and join the nationwide movement to give back to the trails and make sure everyone can enjoy the outdoors:

Lower CT River Valley Horsemen’s Club – Bridle Path Conservancy held a trail maintenance in Webber Woods section of Cockaponset State Forest. The trail maintenance event consisted of replacing rotten planks at 2 pedestrian bridges, replacing/updating trail markers, clipping/trimming trails. They also had a formal dedication of the multi-use bridge built by the groups and volunteers last year.

Reddington Rock Riding Club held a Pancake Breakfast, followed by Blessing of the Mounts and Trail Ride in Shenipsit State Forest

CT Trail Rides Association held a Campout at & Ride and the Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp in Natchaug State Forest. Ride was Sunday some people stayed over on Sat. Night.

Continuing Outreach - Encourage organizations to post CHC Newsletters to their members so that everyone is informed.

Equine Affaire- 1 Ruth Strontzer moved to have the booth at equine affaire 2 Vevette Greenberg passed.

Upcoming Meetings:

CT Horse Council Meetings: Tuesday, October 3rd - 7:30pm

CT Equine Advisory Meeting Dates: Thursday, June 15th - 6:00 pm

The EAC meets at the [Connecticut Forest & Park Association](#), 16 Meriden Road, in Rockfall, CT The public is welcomed.

CHC will write a letter to recommend Denise Ciano for the 5th Congressional District on the Equine Advisory Council.

Adjourned at 9:20pm

Respectfully submitted

Carol Birdsey
Secretary