



## **ALSPT South Management Group Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 27, 2024 from 10:30AM to 12:00PM via Zoom**

### **Recording:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/O9wfZ-HgUhPYssnDr3IxC3UEsxboWoF84V8uvyM1\\_s9gk\\_G9wQdhEUzh7T-VzRcJ.Gn3vmgul1I3n2iCU?startTime=1724770399000](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/O9wfZ-HgUhPYssnDr3IxC3UEsxboWoF84V8uvyM1_s9gk_G9wQdhEUzh7T-VzRcJ.Gn3vmgul1I3n2iCU?startTime=1724770399000)

**Passcode:** TUM+1iBl

### **Attendance:**

Jocelyn Lahey, Riz Rizzo, Pat Young, Tom McGrath, Kate Rattan, Bill Schappert, Craig Bryant, Shalyn Zappulla, Bruce Donald, John Guskowski, Nathan Piche, Lana Melonakos-Harrison, John Hankins, Kevin Grindle, Kate Preston, Emily Wilson, Marcos Gonzalez, Dan Bourret, Robert Haramut, Kim Bradley, Jim Cordier, JD Altobello, Mark Walter, Janice Ehlemeyer

### **Welcome**

Introductions

Purpose - The purpose of the ALSPT Regional Alliance is to:

- Establish regular communications, maintenance, and project review meetings with CT DEEP and Alliance members
- Consider mutual aid needs for safety and emergency management
- Develop, review, submit grant applications as a regional collaborative
- Establish consistency in wayfinding signage
- Work with local and federal legislators to put ALSTP on the table for discussion
- Improve trail use experience to improve eco-tourism opportunities
- Speak as one voice for ongoing maintenance agreements with CT DEEP and for marketing the ALSPT region

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The formation of the ALSPT Regional Alliance is supported with a CT DEEP Rec Trails Grant. CT RC&D will act as a facilitator, complete required grant reporting, assist with communications, outreach, and marketing, and keep the Alliance meetings focused to accomplish the Work Plan.



Chapter 7 of the ALSPT Master Plan discusses roles, responsibilities, and leadership. The ALSPT Regional Alliance should initially be made up of appointed representatives from the twelve towns along the trail. As the organization formalizes itself, bylaws should consider defining membership and board of directors' seats.

#### **The ALSPT South Management Group Representatives:**

- Interim Chairperson – Tom McGrath
- Interim Secretary – No Volunteer
- Columbia – John Guskowski
- Hebron – Craig Bryant
- Lebanon – Phil Chester
- Colchester – No attendees from Colchester present. Will need to confirm representative.
- East Hampton – Dave Cox
- Portland – Dan Bourret

#### **Work Plan Major Tasks (2024-2026)**

- Appoint 1-2 Representatives from each town along the Air Line Trail
- Establish a regular meeting schedule for the ALSPT Regional Alliance as well as North and South Management Groups
- Develop a 2025 Work Plan for the ALSPT Regional Alliance
- Update and maintain online interactive trail mapping, possibly through a special project with UCONN DX Labs
- Hold a public workshop to gather input from the community Host a public event in the
- fall of 2025 bringing all 12 towns together to raise awareness about the benefits of trail use
- Establish bylaws for the ALSPT Regional Alliance

#### **Air Line State Park Trail Website**

There were a number of topics discussed related to the Air Line State Park Region website. An up to date, easy to use, and well known site can improve brand awareness and share expected trail conditions, new infrastructure, maps, events, trail stories and trail journeys, allow for reporting and/or feedback from trail users, etc.



Meeting participants recommended the following website updates:

- ADA Accessibility
- Spanish Translation
- Replace pixelized photos
- Share closures or maintenance alerts
- Possible integration with EZ map
- Improve Search Engine Optimization
- Purchase multiple URLs that point to the primary ALSPT region page
  - [alspt.org](http://alspt.org)
  - [airlinestatparktrailregion.org](http://airlinestatparktrailregion.org)
  - [airlinetrail.org](http://airlinetrail.org)
  - [airlinestateparktrail.org](http://airlinestateparktrail.org)

### **Air Line State Park Regional Alliance – Next Meeting in September**

The focus of the September meeting for the Regional Alliance will be maintenance agreements & protocol, mutual aid agreements, project updates, and reporting of trail conditions & closures.

### **Q&A**

In preparation for the September meeting, an attendee recommended that each town provide a short summary of maintenance or project work that is (or will be) affecting the trail.