



AIR LINE STATE PARK TRAIL REGIONAL MEETING

Tuesday, September 24th

3:00 - 5:00 PM

Windham Town Hall and via Zoom



Recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/wyuVWLbEKmT6mjx7E1lKoV88UH5TKjtkHNF5c17Xl-n2SqoUs0Ey960HxNa74gf.xOgLWIPkyTVBZSmq?startTime=1727204925000>

Passcode: 6u2ib@aB

ATTENDANCE:

In Person

Jocelyn Lahey (CT RC&D), Tara Cleary (CT RC&D), Kevin Grindle (Barton & Loguidice), Marc Lang (Lebanon Conservation Commission), Joan Selfridge (Eastford, Horse), Paul Provost (Thompson Trails), Karen Durlach (Thompson Trails), Kim Clouser (EH Committee), JD Altobello (EH Committee), Marsha Sokoloski (Air Line Trail), Steve Sokoloski (Air Line Trail), Paul Comb (Air Line Trail), Stan Malcolm (ALT South Photographer), Pat Young (Salmon River Watershed), David Bordette (Air Line Trail), Jordan Lumpkins (Town of Windham), Christian Smutnick (New England Mountain Bike Association), Norm Berg (Trail User), Bruce Donald (North Chair), Dan Hickey (Town of Colchester WEO), R. Riz Rizzo (Portland ALT), Matthew Quinn (Deep Park Supervisor)

Zoom

Kim Bradley (CT DEEP), Jamie Sydoriak (CT DEEP), Aaron Goode, Ann Dunnack, Ann Kilpatrick, Bruce Fitzback, Carly DeLuca, Chris Roberts (CT DOT), Craig Bryant (Hebron P&R), Dan Bourret, David Bitler, Jim Larkin, John Hankins (Hop River Trail Alliance), Kate Rattan, Lana Melonakos-Harrison (SCCOG), Lois Bruinooge (TLGV), Marco Gonzalez (Lower CT River COG), Mary Ann Chinatti, Matt Bordeaux, Michael Cipriano (CRCOG), Monique Wolanin, Norm Berg, Rob Haramut (River COG), Jane Seymour, Todd Shepard, Tom McGrath (Columbia)

NOTES:

North and South Management Committees Meetings Summary

Jocelyn Lahey, Executive Director, CT RC&D

Overview of the key points from the Management Group meetings and resulting tasks. Confirm representative members of the ALSPT Regional Alliance.

ALSPT Alliance Formation

Bruce Donald, Interim Chair North Management Committee

Brief on formation documentation timeline.

- *Bruce Donald spoke about the importance of the Bylaws and sought two volunteers to help develop a draft bylaws for the ALSPT Alliance.*

Chapter 4 of the Master Plan: Infrastructure and Maintenance

Kevin Grindle, A.S.L.A, P.L.A, Associate, Barton & Loguidice

Review of the recommendations from the ALSPT Master Plan including topics such as connectivity, parking and access, drainage, trail surfaces, intersections and bridges, vegetation management, trail amenities, and emergency management.

- Bruce Donald recommended using established design standards as a starting point for the ALSPT such as the East Coast Greenway, Farmington Connector Trail, or Central Loop Trail.
- It is critical that the North and South Management Committees
 - Review the short/medium/long-term goals established in the Master Plan and re-organize them to meet current needs of the trail community.
 - Develop strategies to provide a unified trail experience.
 - Leverage the Towns' liaisons to interact directly with CT DEEP until the Alliance is established.

Maintenance Agreements and Maintenance Protocol

Kim Bradley, CT Trails and Greenways Program Coordinator and Jamie Sydoriak, Environmental Analyst III, Land Acquisition & Management Unit – Both CT DEEP

Outline maintenance agreement types, including approval of trail work.

Kim Bradley and Jamie Sydoriak discussed managing the trails and types of maintenance agreements.

The State is:

- Working on updating/modifying the Multi Use Trail Policy for DEEP Properties (Policy 310 link below)
- Creating a document to serve the trail community that is more comprehensive than a Cooperative Trail Maintenance Agreement (Policy 310, Appendix C. Link below.)
- Allowing for more flexibility while still complying with CT DEEP and AG's policies.
- Attendees asked for an appendix of existing agreements and checklist of applicants that the State has with Towns as these could be used for guidance on future projects.

Policy 310: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/deep/outdoor_recreation/trails/policy_procedure-310---multiple-use-trail-policy-for-deep-properties.pdf?rev=61b4ac8222c04dada9c1e9e78c59aef1&hash=CA44643D2C4F68ECEE63D9C2E88511AB

Funding Mechanisms for Maintenance and Improvements

Bruce Donald, Interim Chair North Management Committee

Current funding toward the ALSPT as well as possible opportunities.

- The next round of the Rec Trails Grant Program likely to be on the same timeline as last year with applications due early in 2025 and awards made in June
- Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program
- Small Town Economic Assistance Program
- Eastern Connecticut Tourism District
- Attendees ask for an appendix of all existing Rec Trails Grants

Funding for this work is provided by the Connecticut Recreational Trails Program

Project Updates, Trail Conditions, Closures, Q&A

Open discussion led by Kim Bradley & Bruce Donald, Interim Chair

Summary of current and proposed projects. Opportunity for group input to discuss conditions, priorities, improvement areas, trail closures, etc.

- Putnam/Pomfret – Resurfacing is ongoing
- Hampton – Resurfacing is funded
- Putnam – Connector project is ongoing
- East Hampton – Gap connection, construction, with DOT
- Central CT Loop Trail – Ongoing maintenance
- Hop River Trail – Signage project is largely complete
- Windham – Grant application was not funded by SCCOG
- Thompson – Will be working on trail from Fall 2024 to Spring 2025
- Concerns were raised about ATVs going around gates
- Upcoming Events - Air Line Trail Ghost Run Half Marathon is scheduled for November 2.

Next Steps

Jocelyn Lahey, Executive Director, CT RC&D

Management Committees Meetings & December Regional Meeting.