



**Conservation Technical Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting: Monday, September 21st, 11 am
Virtual GoToMeeting**

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Zach Giron - MetroCOG
- Wilhelmina Krahn – MetroCOG
- Johnell Clarke - MetroCOG
- Lynn Haig – City of Bridgeport
- Steve Hladun – City of Bridgeport
- Justin Giorlando – Town of Easton
- Karen Burnaska – Town of Monroe
- Gregg Dancho – Town of Stratford
- Tatiana Solovey – Town of Trumbull
- Don Watson – Town of Trumbull
- Amy Paterson – CLCC Executive Director
- Yaw Owusu Darko - CLCC
- Daphne Dixon – Live Green CT Executive Director
- Drew Goldsman – TNC
- Jon C. Vander Werff – Save the Sound

2. Zach Giron, MetroCOG, Regional Trails Application

- Currently collecting trail data throughout the region, including trail lines, points of interest, and trailheads, that have been prioritized by each municipality. Modeled after NHCOG Regional Trails Map so that it is more cohesive with existing datasets. CT is working to collect trail data for a statewide trail viewer: Trail Finder. MetroCOG is working with other COG's as well as state agencies to develop a standard data schema that can allow data sharing across agencies, including the soon to be developed statewide application.

3. Amy Paterson, Connecticut Land Conservation Council, Current Projects

- Regional Conservation Partnership Proposal when legislature begins again.

- In 2021 CLCC will hold a regional summit to conduct more conversations on merging different lands trusts and community stakeholders. Those more interested in the topic will delve deeper.
- Around the state CLCC has several advancement initiatives going on for a regional mapper. The State of CT has asked CLCC to provide any information for regional mapping development. CLCC and MetroCOG will coordinate to ensure that data sharing for statewide viewers incorporates a certain degree of uniformity amongst contributing agencies.
- CLCC has been offering online learning and networking opportunities since COVID-19 started so land trusts can stay connected. Participation in these workshops has been great, including conservation conversations during the summer with legislatures. Conversations were recorded and are available on facebook.
- GC3 public input is now available.
- October 17th holding virtual conference with panel discussions. Register here: <http://www.ctconservation.org/Virtual-conference>
- Full Agenda can be found here: <http://www.ctconservation.org/2020-virtual-conference>

4. Johnnie Clarke, MetroCOG, Sustainable CT Update

- Two towns applied for the fall application cycle and decisions will be released in November. Fairfield gained Silver certification in 2018 and the certification is good for three years. Deadline for Spring application cycle is April 6th. Any revisions to the fall application can be made and re-apply for the spring cycle. Check out the website to find more information on the program and other participating municipalities: <https://sustainablect.org/>

5. Other Business

Daphne Dixon, Live Green CT Executive Director:

- State signed an MOU to have 125,000 Electric school buses by 2025. She can provide information on the number committed to each town. Live Green CT just completed a nine-week program on electric school buses and 24 towns participated.
- Municipal EV Readiness Toolkit 12 Week Program - Goal is to have Town leaders attend and they can develop a toolkit and get an action plan for different categories to get a blueprint on how to electrify the Town.
- Module 2 is Thursday 24th at 1pm. <http://www.livegreenct.org/>

Drew Goldsman, CT Chapter of The Nature Conservancy

- Joint application submitted to the Long Island Sound Futures Fund in May with TNC, City of Bridgeport, Groundworks Bridgeport, MetroCOG as the lead applicant and others. The WPCA wastewater treatment plant will be undergoing major upgrades. The goal is to identify surface areas within the boundary of the WPCA that would be ideal for bioswales to reduce the number of combined sewer overflow (CSO) events. The project will deliver a suite of community and student designed green stormwater infrastructure plans for 50 identified sites.
- Grant list posted in November

- Apply to Clean Water Fund for implementation of the designs.
- Also working with various stakeholders and Bridgeport Hospital to develop a Wellness Trail at Seaside Park.

6. Adjourn

- Meeting Adjourned at 11:50am
- Next Meeting is Monday December 14th @ 11am