

Minutes East Coast Greenway Alliance

Trail Council Meeting, Saturday, 1 May 2010

Rutgers – Newark; Engelhard 213
190 University Avenue
Newark, NJ

Council members in attendance: David Read - Chair, Tony Barrett, Sue Ellen Bordwell, Steven Davis, Dave Dionne, Bruce Drees, Heather Dunigan, Chuck Flink, Andy Hamilton, Greg Hinchliffe, Paul Haydt, Mike Kruimer, Terry Landreth, Bethel Paris, & Annette Schultz,

Council members absent:, Mark Chura, Craig Della Penna, Lisa Fernandez, Jim Fisher, Vonie Gilreath, Holly Haff, Jo Hickson, Terry Landreth, Dave Lutz, Mark Paquette, Bob Patten, Janine Peccini, Alan Turnbull, David Wilson, & Dennis Winters.



Downtown Newark

Staff present: Eric Weis Trail Program Coordinator, Michael Oliva- Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator, Herb Hiller – Southeast Regional Coordinator & Dennis Markato-Soriano - Executive Director, Kitty Carter, Office Manager

Guests/Others present: Elizabeth Brody, Dave Connelly, Spencer Finch, Anne Kruimer, Jim Langford, Anne Maleady, Steven Mitchell, Steve Moreno, Bob Russo & Anthony Savarese.

Call to Order 9:08 AM on a warm & sunny Saturday morning in downtown Newark.

Welcome & Introductions – David Read opened the meeting by welcoming committee members, staff and trail advocates.

Review of Minutes - Tony Barrett

Kruimer **moved** and Dionne **seconded**, approval of the November, 2009 Savannah Trail Council minutes. **Motion was approved** unanimously.

Trail Program Staff Progress Report – Eric Weis

Capacity Update – In the year since November 2008, ECGA trail program staff has been reduced from 5 to 2.5 FTE in response to the economic downturn. Steve Bevington has taken a full time job in the public health field and the Communications Coordinator has not been replaced.

Trail Status – Total trail distance has been revised slightly higher to 2,897 miles (due to alignment and revised routing). 9% of the trail is marked. Completed trail is up to 24% (+32 miles) and gap miles are reduced by 60 miles.

Interesting Developments – The Suffolk Seaboard Coastline Trail & Ashland Trolley Trail – both in Virginia.

Trail Designations – Four new segments in 4 states (ME, MA, MD & FL) (2 are a phased extension)

Southeast Region – Herb Hiller, Steve Davis & Paul Haydt



*Herb Hiller extolling
the East Coast
Greenway with Steve
Davis to his right*

There is a desire to have a fully-geographic represented Florida Committee. Would be nice to have someone in each of the 17 FL Counties.

Most effective MO is to create awareness of the trail and to be opportunistic to piggyback on other work in a strategic way. Interact closely with the FL office of Greenways & Trails (23 staff), the RTC field office and key individuals. Herb gave a couple of examples of people who have a passion for bicycling or history that can use the ECG to support their mission. Support the interests of others who have a different agenda – strategic interests.

The Coastal Georgia Greenway team is doing pretty good. Their route is our route. Jo Claire is the unpaid ED of the team. Herb is a member of the team. Herb is working to increase passengers on the Cumberland Sound Ferry.

Check out www.coastalgeorgiagreenway.org for an indicative but not exhaustive overview of the trail in Georgia.

Boca Raton ECG kiosk – key donor provided funds for a kiosk in the Spanish River Park designed by Ed Stone (famous landscape architect who died in 2009) but those funds were since used for staff support. Jeff Borick, city landscape architect, wants to place the kiosk at the Ranger Station. Planning continues, thanks to Steve Davis, and construction funds (approx \$10,000) are still needed.

South Atlantic Region – Eric Weis, Bruce Drees,

Eric would like a better name for the Carolinas & Virginia . People think that this region encompasses the Faulkland Islands.

Virginia's 261 miles includes parts of the Potomac National Heritage Trail Tobacco Heritage Trail is alongside the high-speed rail between Petersburg, VA to Charlotte, NC.

Bruce Drees gave an update on the 82-miles of current travel route in southeastern Virginia. Bruce talked about the Virginia Beach spur trail which has support from a strong runners group and others in the outdoor activity community representing 4,000 members. Suffolk trail connections are being stymied by CSX rail ROW & security issues. Dave Dionne suggested,

“Go where you are welcome” --- Build the 8-miles of trail that are easy and address the problem areas later when public support for completion can be a useful leverage. Momentum will build.

The Ashland Trolley trail has recently surfaced. The first electrified inter-urban RR in the world. Retired in 1938. There are still some historic buildings and ROW that still exist. The President of Virginia Bicycle Federation, Champe Burley, is advocating for this trail. The concept solidified through the ECG Virginia mapping charrettes. A group has formed to work on this 15-mile trail.



Rutgers Trail Council Meeting Room

The Virginia Capital Trail (Richmond to Williamsburg) is progressing. This 55-mile trail will consist of a paved 8-to-10 foot-wide path. Newly completed sections of the Virginia Capital Trail will be coming to the Fall meeting for designation.

VA recreational use liability legislation expanded to include railroad corridors.

The Raleigh to Petersburg, VA High-Speed rail corridor alignment with the ECG is on the 20-year planning horizon. David Brickley is meeting with the Rail Board in December.

The ECG section from Fredericksburg to the Potomac is a joint overlay with the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. Fort Belvoir may reopen to bicycle and pedestrian passage soon.

North Carolina has 76 miles of 390 miles complete. Iona Thomas is the state committee chair with the challenge of determining the optimal spine route. There are a lot of route options given all the various local trails that are developing. There is a “richness of opportunity” in North Carolina. No recommendation from the NC committee. There will be a meeting with the Triangle Foundation later this month. The Fall Trails Council meeting will be in NC.

Pender County – the Coastal Pender Greenway and the West Pender Rail-Trail are two developing alignments for the ECG. The County has required industrial developers along the route to provide for shared-use path when developed.

43 miles are complete out of the 397-mile current travel route in South Carolina. Chuck mentioned that he is working with Vonie Gilreath.

Mid-Atlantic Region – Mike Oliva, Beth Brody, Mike Kruimer, Heather Dunigan, Spencer Finch & Greg Hinchliffe.

The ECG is 40% complete in the Mid-Atlantic region -- 34% designated with 23% in development.

NEW YORK: 28 out of 44 miles is complete in New York. In NYC, 90% is complete. Seven miles are signed in the Bronx. VanCortlandt park to Broadway Bridge installed signs on-road for 2 miles. Thanks to John Patera for developing and implementing the joint NYC Parks/ECGA sign. Sharrows are used along the on-road route. The new NYC bike map (300,000 copies printed) shows NJ streets and the ECG. Three major gaps—4-mi Westchester Ave trail; Hutchinson Parkway trail 3.5 mile & cross Manhattan. The ECGA is the sponsor for the Westchester Walk/Bike Alliance, which has put on a couple of successful bike rides. Mike noted that a bicyclist killed 12-3-09 by a County bus, Merrill Casell, was active in the Alliance.



Al Kent with Mike Kruimer and Mike Oliva at the start of the post-meeting Newark walk

NEW JERSEY: 46 miles out of 95 miles are complete in NJ with 80 miles signed. New Portal Bridge for bike/ped access on Amtrak's for rail-with-trail bridge across Hackensack River. Important precedent for putting bike/ped access on high-speed rail facilities. Part of the new Hudson River tunnel for rail. 5 acres of land – mitigation for wetland impact equates for 2 miles of trail ROW along the corridor. This is a key advocacy issue for the entire ECG. Request is to place bike/ped path alongside the train on the new bridge.

Bordwell **moved** and Dionne **seconded**, a motion for the ECGA to endorse bike/ped access on the New Portal Bridge. **Motion was approved** unanimously. A lot of discussion ensued on advocacy for the bridge. Frank

Lautenberg is a strong Senate supporter for Amtrak. 8 awareness events already in 2010 in NJ. Working on gap between Newark and Jersey City. 10 mile current route being worked on.

The Liberty Water Gap Trail – the only trail in America that can boast a national landmark at each end. – Delaware Water Gap to the Statue of Liberty. 130-mile long mini-ECG. There are 7 trail segments. “The route lives & breathes on signage”, says Steve Moreno. It is 95% complete. Al Kent is the founder and lives in Essex County. (Leading the walk in Newark after the meeting). Combined ECG/LWGT trail for 10-miles in Newark. This will be the next-best route for replacing the PATH train in the current travel route.

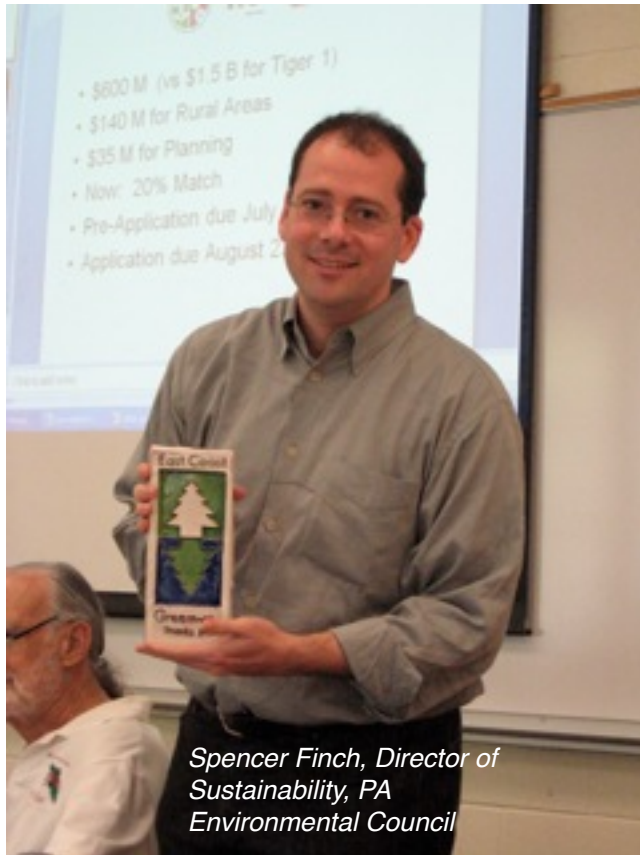
May 23 – 50 mile hike from Cranford, NJ to Manhattan. This walking event will feature the ECG route. 70 participants have already signed up.

Four kiosks have been erected to date with a fifth going up in late November. Mike Kruimer has been instrumental in the erection of all kiosks in NJ. He states that about \$2,200 for materials is the current cost/kiosk.

The entire D&R Canal path will be resurfaced with stonedust to replace the pea gravel.

Successful NJ Bike Summit -- 170 participants sponsored by the NJ Bike/Ped Coalition and ECGA.

NJ will be the next state to be 100% signed (after NH).



Spencer Finch, Director of Sustainability, PA Environmental Council

PENNSYLVANIA: 14 of 62 miles are complete in PA. Andy Hamilton was lauded for great work. 38 miles (61%) are under development. He helped with a TIGER grant proposal for 23MM with about \$15 in ECG projects in the Philly area. PennDOT and ECGA have come to an agreement on signage. ECG volunteers are being allowed to install signs.

DELAWARE: 14 of 38 miles are complete in Delaware. Newcastle rail trail is being extended. DelDOT will fund all ECG signs -- 30 miles (Sept. 2011) for on-road. Gap between Brandywine and Delaware river will be closed with construction of short trail sections under way in 2010. Heather Is doing an American Planning Association presentation at APA MD/DE conference.

MARYLAND: 51 of 153 miles are complete in MD. A kiosk is up on the North Central trail. The US 40 Susquehanna Bridge redecking project may benefit the ECG. Possibility of an 'access & control road' alongside the rail bridge. Pautuxent River crossing not funded but maybe a earmark sponsored by Congressman Hoyer. Jones Falls trail Phase 5 has been 'de-funded'.

Toole
bike plan.

Design is working on a statewide MDDOT trail and High Priority trails identified are almost all sections of the ECG. Base redevelopment activities may provide ECG opportunities as well.

DC: 5 miles of 8 miles complete in DC. RTC has received a \$50K grant from Coca-Cola to support the Met Branch trail developments. An 'orphan' section between Brookland and the NY Ave. Metro stations has been paved (but not connected to anything). The showcase Bike Station at Union Station opened in October.

May 3 ribboncutting for that section of Met Branch trail. Bob Patten will pursue the placement of the mid-point marker. Bike & Roll operates the Bike Station and may possibly open another station near DC.

Tiger & ECG – Spencer Finch, Director of Sustainability, PA Environmental Council.

The signed PA State Bike Routes are for advanced bicyclists. They asked for \$36 MM regional trail network – got \$23 MM. Some sections are expensive -- 0.4-miles for \$10 MM cantilevered out on the Schuylkill River. Some people don't want sidewalks because they have to shovel them. Neighbors wanted to retain on-street parking so they can park in front and watch their cars.

How did it get funded? – Only 1 of 2 bike/ped TIGER projects in the country. They did their homework. Conducted feasibility studies for each segment of the ECG. Focus on gaps. ‘Tee-up’ the projects so that there is already something in the pipeline. Partnerships were important. Build up political relationships. Long-term plan aiming for a cross-city connection. TIGER 2 \$600MM (vs. \$1500 MM in TIGER 1) \$140 for Rural areas. Applications due 7/16/010. 20% match. \$35 MM set aside for Planning. Multi-state application will be effective. Non-profits are eligible for Planning Grants. 51 grants in TIGER 1, only two were bike/ped projects – Indianapolis and Philadelphia.

LUNCH BREAK Lunch at Food Court on University Ave.



This war memorial is one of the many civic monuments in Newark near the meeting site.

New England Region

Eric Weis, Steve Mitchell & Sue Ellen Bordwell

CONNECTICUT: CT has 53 of 198 miles complete. A lot of the current travel route in CT has been signed due to Rob Dexter’s efforts.

The Merritt Parkway was built in the 1930’s designed with adjacent bridle paths. A 17-year effort to realize the development of an adjacent path is finally getting traction. There was a SW CT Summit on October 22nd that addressed Merritt issues

– engineering issues like the historic bridges but more importantly, the state-level political issues. A very important outcome of the meeting was ConnDOT stating that it will now support trail development and join DEP in planning for development. A 1-mile walking demonstration path in Stamford will be constructed soon. It is recognized that the 37 miles of trail with parkway will be very expensive (particularly due to the expensive bridge/road crossings) but as Bill O’Neill stated last year, “if highway sound proofing gets built for \$1 million/mile to benefit a few adjacent homeowners, certainly a trail can be built that benefits thousands of people”.

The Hamden/New Haven connection is now finished, an important link in the completion of the Farmington Canal Heritage trail. Plainville is important gap that will be both on-road and off-road.

Simsbury is the first “Bicycle Friendly Community” (BFC) in CT, third in New England. We should encourage all communities along the ECG become BFCs.

Airline Trail section in Putnam is acquiring a permanent easement for a 2-mile gap section. (4 miles done in the south) 18 miles left.

RHODE ISLAND: In RI, 24 of 49 miles are complete. 10 miles of railtrail in western RI are planned to be opened in 2013. The eastern 5-miles will be bid this year for design. A two-mile gap is under construction -- when finished, there will be a 16 mile trail.

When I-195 is torn down, the ECG will be built on the footprint. Providence sewer work will be capped by a trail for the north connection to the Blackstone River.

MASSACHUSETTS: In MA, there is 146 miles total of ECG route. A lot in planning is going into the next piece of the Blackstone River Bikeway. DCR is committing \$11 MM for the bridges alone – some are historic bridges.

Danvers is having rail torn up. May 23 grand opening on Newburyport & Salisbury trail section – which are pieces of the Border-to-Boston trails under construction.

NEW HAMPSHIRE: no new developments. A lot of talking. Challenges but solutions coming.

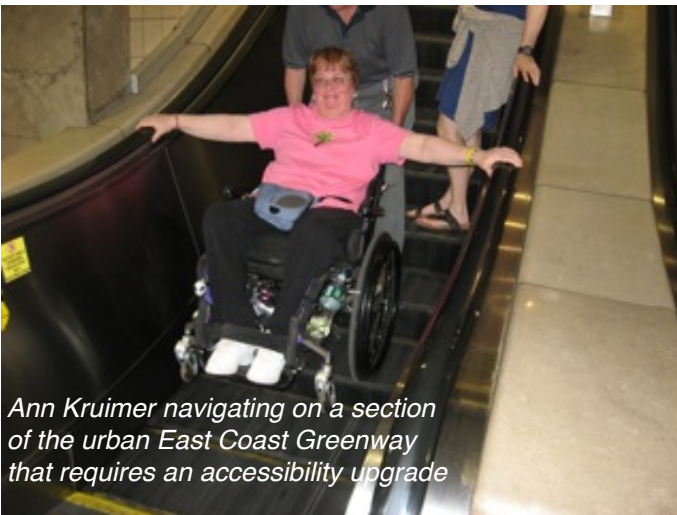
MAINE: In Maine 66 Miles of trail is complete. A \$25 K gap study to examine the South Berwick-to-Kittery section has been funded.

After many years in the planning & talking pipeline, there is a construction surge in Maine. The “Bookend” trails will see a lot of a lot of construction in 2010– with some small sections in between. We should see the amount of completed ECG trail in Maine double in 2010.

The Downeast Sunrise trail has 32 miles completed (designated last year), with another 33 miles set to open in July and a final 20 miles to be finished in October.

The Eastern Trail, the “showcase” ECG section in Maine, has three construction projects underway this year adding over 6 miles.

Two key Route US 1 bridges utilized by the ECG, the Memorial Bridge in Kittery and the Martin’s Point Bridge in Portland are undergoing preliminary design. The ECGA and local advocates are involved in the public hearing process to ensure good bike/ped access.



Ann Kruimer navigating on a section of the urban East Coast Greenway that requires an accessibility upgrade

In 2010 (and again in 2011) the 22nd Annual Maine Bike Rally will be held in Brunswick, ME along the ECG route. The ECGA is a sponsoring organization and will have a display presence. All are encouraged to attend July 9-11. See www.mainebikerally.org.

Cue Sheet update – Dan McCrady

Dan reviewed status of cue sheets – the primary source of directions for travel on the ECG. One can get easily

lost without good quality cue sheets. For 106 segments, 10 are missing and many are incomplete.

We need more accurate cue sheets and a dynamic process for changes. Needs to be a simpler process. Ability to download to GPS units.

- Assume no compass – no “north or west” directions.
- Assume no odometer
- Assume no map

Examined a lot of software. All software has errors. Trimble Outdoors was the selected software. Review for accuracy, modify to make more user-friendly, produce pdf files, post updated cue sheets – for both North & South directions.

Now have 108 segments – 24 have been revised and 6 segments have been ride checked.

How to write a cue sheet so that you can't get lost--- make with very clear directions. Handouts were distributed.

US Bicycle Route System updates –Eric Weis

Due to limited time, this agenda item was deferred. Contact Eric or visit www.adventurecycling.org/usbrs/ for more information.

Trail Segment Designations -- Eric then presented brief summaries on remaining four segments recommended for designation.

1.) Topsham Coastal Connector Trail - (0.5 mi.). 2.6 miles are planned in total. Topsham, Maine. Side path needs stop signs and traffic warning devices.

2.) Clipper City Rail Trail – part of the Border-to-Boston Trail (1.1 miles) includes a short trail bridge. Starts at train station to river crossing on US 1 bridge. Newburyport, MA

3.) M-Path/South Dade Greenway- (30 mi.). This is 1 % of the entire ECG; from Miami River to Homestead 8-ft wide path. First designation in Miami-Dade County.

4.) BWI Trail (Lithicum Station section) - (0.2 mile). Nice trail amenities and landscaping.

RESOLUTION: Bordwell **moved**, Hinchcliffe **seconded** a motion to designate the four trail segments as presented. The total designations represent 31.9 miles. **Motion was approved** unanimously.

ECG User Guides Updates -Eric Weis

Virginia flip-map guide is underway. David Brickley is still working on this project.

New Business & Greenway Forum: David Read & staff

New England Bike/Walk Summit, Providence, RI Thursday, October 7

Recognition for Kitty Carter for all of her hard work during the transition

Beth Brody made a pitch for membership solicitation and for a donor bike ride.

October 4 – 'Visit Florida' will launch a trails website (equestrian, water & shared-use trails). Florida gets 82 million visitors per year. Most significant 'greening' for the tourism industry in the state. ECG well-known as instrumental organization to making this happen.

Bruce Drees suggested obtaining video clips of rail with trail. We have lots of great still images, but we need video. He is willing to archive.

Andy Hamilton suggested collecting signatures at public events. Contract a banner and post signatures.

Mike K. ECG and NJ Bike Walk coalition hosting Winning Campaign Seminar – people Powered Movement. Need 25 people June 4-6, 2010

We all need to do something to promote the Amtrak New Portal Bridge in New Jersey!!

Next Trail Council Meeting: Saturday TBA, November, 2010:

Meeting Adjournment: 3:55 PM

Post-Meeting Activities

Al Kent, founder of the Liberty Gap trail, led a group on the urban section of the ECG through Newark. A post-meeting, no-host dinner was held in the 'Ironbound' section of Newark, the 4-



Trail Council discussions continue into the night at this Newark churrascaria.

square-mile section so named due to the large number of iron forges or the fact that the area is entirely surrounded by railroad tracks. This neighborhood is also known as "Little Portugal" and a pleasant alfresco dinner was held at the Iberia Peninsula, a churrascaria or Portuguese steakhouse. Churrasco is the cooking style, which translates roughly from the Portuguese for 'barbecue'. Known for its 'rodízio' service, where one pays a fixed price and the 'Passadores' (meat waiters) bring an offering of food to each customer at several times throughout the meal, until the customers signify that they have had

enough. Passadores came to the table with knives and a skewer, on which are speared various kinds of meat, mostly local cuts of beef, pork, turkey, sausage & chicken.

The ECGA Board of Trustees meeting was held the following day, some members with gluttonous guilt from the previous evening.

Respectively submitted,

Tony Barrett