

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
September 6, 2005

Call to Order

Acting President Margaret Myatt called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. There were 27 people present.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the 8/3/2005 meeting.

Special Business

- Approval of Bylaws:
 - Motion was made to approve the bylaws as drafted by the Bylaws Committee. Motion carried unanimously with one amendment to Article 9: Termination of the Friends of the Trail. The phrase “for the purpose of trail maintenance” was added to the last sentence so the complete sentence reads, “In the event of termination, any remaining funds shall be transferred to the Town of Milford for the purpose of trail maintenance.”
 - Motion was made to terminate the committee. Motion carried unanimously.

- Officer Elections:
 - President
 - Margaret Myatt was nominated and elected unanimously by voice vote since there were no other candidates.
 - Vice President
 - Tony Niro was nominated and elected unanimously by voice vote since there were no other candidates.
 - Treasurer
 - Dave Cassinelli was nominated and elected unanimously by voice vote since there were no other candidates.
 - Secretary
 - Tom Myatt was nominated and elected unanimously by voice vote since there were no other candidates.

Officer Reports

- President – Margaret Myatt:
 - October 15th is the grand opening date. The special events committee is meeting regularly to get participants, vendors, and publicity. Also, publicity committee is active for the event.
 - Trails & Greenways conservatory had a Wed. Sept. 14th seminar on how to organize an effective advocacy-friends group. Scheduled for 10:00 am in Leominster. Can anyone attend?
 - Anne-Marie McCarthy’s is donating a portion of her Avon sales to the Friends. A link has been posted on the friends web pages.
 - Anne-Marie is also looking into a Comcast cable grant for non-profits to receive telecommunications equipment. She will let us know if it is something the friends can take advantage of.
 - Assabet Valley River Rail Trail grand opening will be held on Saturday, Sept. 24th in Hudson and Marlboro. So far, Nancy Wojick and Tony Niro will be able to attend. Anyone else?
 - Milford Town Festival on 9/24 – the Friends will have a presence there for membership drive and fundraising. We will have a table to distribute information and balloons – courtesy of the Montgomery Lodge Masons. Can anyone else help “man” the table?
 - On the same day, Hopedale will have a parks festival day. Debbie Walther and Cathy Grose are involved. Again, the friends will have a table with information and balloons.
 - Margaret is going to Selectman’s meeting on Monday to introduce the Friends. Anybody is welcome to join her.
 - Sheldon Moniz, representing the Masons spoke:

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- Masons plan to have a very strong presence on opening day.
 - Suggested that segments of the trail be maintained by different organizations.
 - Willing to help in any way – want to learn what we need.
 - The Masons are considering a “Haunted Trail” for future Halloweens to replace the very successful Haunted Houses they have had over the years in Milford open buildings.
- Vice President – Tony Niro:
 - Tony noted that some people are concerned about the danger of crossing Dilla Street.
 - Also suggested we invite Chief O’Loughlin to attend one of the meetings of the general membership.
 - Treasurer – Dave Cassinelli:
 - Dave reported that we have an EIN (Employee Identification Number).
 - The bank requires officer names, bylaws, EIN to open an account.
 - We already have a few donations to deposit.
 - Dave will make quarterly financial reports.
 - Secretary – Tom Myatt: Nothing to report.

Committee Reports

- Special Events Committee – Margaret Myatt:
 - Grand Opening is on Saturday, October 15th at 10:00 am.
 - Primary objective is to raise awareness. Fundraising is secondary.
 - Stacy Middle School Band will perform starting with the ribbon cutting, then leading a walk from Sacred Heart to Fino Field along the trail.
 - Vendors are welcome, including food vendors massage therapy, physical therapy, etc.
 - The town does require vendor permits through the Health Department and it charges nominal fees. Reno suggested that the town could use the same protocol as used for July 4th.
 - The Masons will heavily participate: providing balloons, popcorn, wheelchairs
 - It was suggested the golf carts could be used for senior citizens rather than wheelchairs but some thought that would send the wrong message since they will not be allowed on trail under regular circumstances.
 - The Bike shop will offer a free safety check in conjunction with the Safety Committee.
 - There will be a set of free bicycle helmet giveaways. Details to follow.
 - Electricity will be available.
- Safety Committee – John Edmondson:
 - Suggestion is to have something like a neighborhood watch, but for the trail.
 - People would have a way to contact police if they see anything wrong. 911?
 - Everyone should feel responsible – no special group.
 - Encourage people to bring cell phone.
 - John is arranging to meet with Chief O’Loughlin.
- Trail Committee Report – Reno Deluzio:
 - Construction surprises behind us. Remaining items are more routine – into the finish work. The trail is expected to be substantially completed by mid-October.
 - Safety was a concern from the beginning and was much discussed. Two major concerns: crossings on Route 495 on/off ramp and Dilla Street. May be able to address Dilla St in Phase 2 with pedestrian light. Not much can do with Route 495 ramp. Suggestion made that we can survey trail users in the spring.

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- The trail has its own bylaws. There are fines for breaking the rules.
- Suggestion was made that signs warn parents of upcoming street to cross.
- Suggestion was made that barrier be put up to force people to dismount at street crossings.
- The fencing in place is to constrain access points. Town Forest has historically been a trouble area. Entry from Town Forest is not controlled, but on a positive note, the trail allows more access to Town Forest. Shadowbrook access point was made in response to petition from Shadowbrook 300 residents.
- Phase II
 - Two years away to starting. More engineering work to be completed.
 - There is a special town Meeting on 11/24 at which there will be 4 articles concerning the trail that can use support:
 - A request for another \$150,000.
 - Town to pay share of overrun cost (TBD).
 - Clear up technical problem with bylaws.
 - Land-taking article.
 - Any town resident can speak at town meeting.
- Publicity Committee: Margaret Myatt
 - Nancy Wojick will take a leadership role in publicity.

Old Business

- Logo has been approved through the state. Some modest changes have been made (building height reduced). Logo should not be changed further. Official copy held by Friends president and used for officially sanctioned correspondence and promotion.
- Mailing address is:
 - Attention: Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail
 - Milford Parks Department
 - Town Hall, 52 Main Street
 - Milford MA 01757
- Email address is MlfrdTrl@Yahoo.com
- Levels of giving: motion was made and unanimously carried to accept the following levels of giving:
 - Individual \$10.00
 - Family \$25.00
 - Pathfinder \$50.00
 - Trailblazer \$100.00
 - Corporate \$500.00

New Business

Motions were made and unanimously carried to create the following committees and approve the appointment of the respective chairpersons:

- Special Events – chair is vacant at this time.
- Fund Raising – chairperson: Ann Marie McCarthy
- Publicity – chairperson: Nancy Wojick
- Safety – chairperson: John Edmondson
- Maintenance – chair is vacant at this time.

Next Meeting

Motion was made and unanimously carried to have the next meeting on Tuesday 10/11 at 7:00 PM at the Senior Center.

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Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.