

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
November 1, 2005

Call to Order

Margaret Myatt called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. Thirteen members were present.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the 10/11/2005 meeting, with a note that the membership count was incorrect.

Officer Reports

- Secretary – Tom Myatt:
 - The current membership count is 50: 11 Individual, 22 Family, 6 Trail Guide, 10 Pathfinder, and 1 Trailblazer. Note: does not include the 4 Family memberships received at the beginning the meeting tonight.
- Treasurer – Dave Cassinelli:
 - Dave was not present but sent a report that total receipts to date are \$2,477 and total expenditures to date are \$800 (for granite bench – gift of Class of 1957).
- Vice President – Tony Niro:
 - Tony will start pursuing corporate donations once we are established as a 501(c)(3).
- President – Margaret Myatt:
 - Chamber of Commerce: Barry Finegold, president, said he does not think it makes sense for the Friends to join, but the Chamber will allow the Friends to include an insert on a newsletter that has a distribution of about 1500. Barry also said he does not think it is necessary for anyone representing the Chamber to speak at a Friends meeting at this time.
 - Margaret will attend the Tri-Valley Runners meeting in December. They want to participate in supporting the Trail.
 - Margaret has been working on the website. She found another sponsor that wants to advertise on the site, Milford Marble & Granite. The other sponsors include Richwood Printing & Copy Services, and Attorney Laura Mann.
 - The Parks Department agreed to allow 12 benches to be donated and installed.

Committee Reports

- Special Events Committee – Margaret Myatt:
 - Pat Rosenthal will be the “go-to” person for Grand Opening event.
 - Potential date:
 - May 20th, day before Mothers Day, was suggested because people will probably be in town.
 - Contention with Saturday soccer games is another consideration.
 - First Communion dates at Sacred Heart on May 6th and 7th would create a problem with parking on those dates.
 - Also should check when will the final blacktop coat be put down in the spring.
 - Date was left undecided at this meeting.
- Fund Raising Committee – Ann Marie McCarthy
 - Ann was absent tonight. Margaret reports that Ann is ready to roll.
 - Don Michaelson addressed the meeting. He is professionally involved in sound engineering. Don proposed having a concert at Milford High School this winter for the benefit of the library and the trail. He has approached the Friends of the Library as well. Don suggested selling tickets for \$10 or \$15. He thinks he could produce an event for under \$2000, including talent and promotion.

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- Margaret proposed that Don work with the Special Events Committee.
- Tom suggested getting a firmer proposal in writing as the next step.

- Safety Committee – John Edmondson:
 - No report.

- Publicity Committee – Nancy Wojcik
 - Nancy will work with Theresa on publicity for bench.
 - Theresa would like the publicity of the installation of the bench to have more focus on the “first installation of a donated bench” than on emphasizing the Class of 1957.

- Trail Committee Report – Reno Deluzio:
 - The town meeting on 10/24 was good for the Trail. Four articles concerning the Trail were easily approved:
 - Town will fund the \$15,000 in overrun costs on Phase 1.
 - Town will provide \$150,000 in additional funds for completion of design for Phase 2. This got us listed on state program.
 - Land acquisition article.
 - Minor technical problem with Trail bylaws resolved.
 - There are some drainage problems on the trail. Latest one is on the segment between Shadowbrook and the Water Company. It is fortunate the flooding happened now before the final blacktop was laid. The construction crew will have to put three more culverts in this area to resolve this problem.
 - Target was suppose to do some construction around the 495 Interstate but did not, so Northern Construction has stopped at Cedar St. Northern has bid on the Target work, but is not going to bring any more heavy equipment in until it is determined if they get the bid because the transportation of heavy equipment is costly. Northern is asking for extension of the project to beyond end of November, perhaps to May 2006.
 - Final blacktop coat will go on the trail in the spring.
 - Reno asked for support letters for a grant to reimburse the \$150,000 for design. He received a half dozen but could still use more. Form letters are not as good as individually written letters. Email letters are fine.
 - Mass Highway will do field walk of design for Phase 2 tomorrow.

Old Business

- Incorporation and 501(c)(3) status:
 - Margaret reported that Attorney Laura Mann volunteered to help the Friends incorporate and become a 501(c)(3) organization. She has helped other organizations do the same.
 - One reason stated in the past for not pursuing this avenue was that there would be too much paperwork to complete on an annual basis, but it is actually not that burdensome.
 - Attorney Mann recommends that the Friends should first incorporate, and then apply for 501(c)(3) status.
 - Motion was made and unanimously carried for the Friends to file for articles of incorporation.
 - Margaret will work on the Articles of Organization for review at the next meeting.
 - Fee for incorporation is \$35 initially and then \$15 annually.

- Benches – The Parks Department has endorsed installation of up to one dozen benches to be donated as gifts from the Friends. No motion required.

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New Business

- Motion was made and unanimously carried to change the name of the organization from “Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail” to “Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail, Inc”.
- Motion was made and unanimously carried to reinstate the Bylaws Committee to propose revisions to the bylaws as necessary for incorporation and 501(c)(3) status.

Next Meeting

Motion was made and unanimously carried to have the next meeting on Tuesday 12/6 at 7:00 PM at the Senior Center.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.