

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

Call to Order

Margaret Myatt called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. Ten members were present.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the 11/1/2005 meeting.

Officer Reports

- Secretary – Tom Myatt:
 - The current membership count is 54: 11 Individual, 26 Family, 6 Trail Guide, 10 Pathfinder, and 1 Trailblazer.
- Treasurer – Dave Cassinelli:
 - Dave was not present but sent a report that total receipts to date are \$2,670 and total expenditures to date are \$815 (for granite bench – gift of Class of 1957 and \$15 for copying).
- Vice President – Tony Niro:
 - Nothing to report.
- President – Margaret Myatt:
 - Margaret extended thanks to Laura Mann for her assistance with revising the bylaws to make them more suitable for incorporation and application to become a 501(c)(3) organization and for her assistance with the articles of incorporation.
 - Once the bylaw revisions are approved at this meeting, they will be used to complete the articles of incorporation, which will be on the agenda for approval at the January meeting.
 - Chinese Medicine for Health & The New England School of Tai Chi paid the Friends a \$100 annual fee for an ad on the Friends web site.
 - Margaret presented the trail to The Tri Valley Runners at their December meeting. The group is interested in doing a fun run.
 - Regarding when to have the grand opening, Margaret asked people to consider what day and time would be best.

Committee Reports

- Special Events Committee – Pat Rosenthal:
 - Nothing to report.
- Fund Raising Committee – Ann Marie McCarthy
 - Nothing to report.
- Safety Committee – John Edmondson:
 - Nothing to report.
- Publicity Committee – Nancy Wojick
 - Nothing to report.
- Trail Committee Report – Reno Deluzio:
 - Phase 1:
 - Three new culverts were put in to address the drainage problems on the segment between Shadowbrook and the Water Company.

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- Northern Construction is still waiting for Mass Highway to award a contract for the Target work before bring in heavy equipment to complete Phase 1 work around the 495 Interstate ramp.
- Final blacktop coat will go on the Trail in the spring.
- Phase 2:
 - The Trail Committee has a lot on its plate. They submitted the Phase 2 design plans to the Mass Highway committee, which approved it to move further through the process. The Phase 2 design may cost more than originally estimated.
 - Town Meeting supported the Trail with passage of the four articles discussed at a previous Friends meeting.
 - Mass Highway will do field walk of design for Phase 2 tomorrow.
 - Next steps include: completing license agreement with New England Power; finalizing a deal on an easement; variance approval on parking lot for landlord bordering the Trail; conducting abutter meetings (there are more residential abutters for Phase 2 than Phase 1); developing new contract with the designer; addressing easement that the gas company has across New England Power land.
 - The anticipated schedule for completing Phase 2 is the spring of 2008.
 - It was recommended that the website have a spot advocating the writing of letters in support of Phase 2.
- 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.

Old Business

- The revisions to the bylaws proposed by the Bylaws Committee to make them more suitable for the Friends to incorporate and to become a 501(c)(3) organization were reviewed by the membership. The most significant change is the addition of a Board of Directors (new Article 6). The Board will consist of the four officers of the Friends and three other directors elected by the membership. After some further minor changes suggested by the membership were accepted, the motion was made and unanimously carried to approve the new version of the bylaws. Note: The new version of the bylaws was distributed to the entire membership on December 14th.
- It was noted that the bylaw revisions did not include any statements regarding liability protection, but that this should be explored further.

New Business

- No new business was conducted.

Next Meeting

Motion was made and unanimously carried to have the next meeting at 7:00 PM Tuesday, January 3rd at the Senior Center.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.