

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
August 1, 2006

Call to Order

Margaret Myatt called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. 13 members and 3 visitors were present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the 7/11/2006 meeting.

Guest Speakers

- Sgt Sacco reported he received 75 bicycle helmets through a grant from the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau, and has 10 left over from previous engagement. These are for the Friends to distribute at the grand opening, with the stipulation that they communicate they were made available through the grant.
- Sgt Sacco also noted that an arrest was made for someone on a motorcycle on the trail.
- Michael Finegan and John Fullerton from Galaxy Integrated Technologies, Inc. gave a presentation on solar-powered emergency help call towers.
 - Sgt Sacco asked if the same network used for towers on the trail could be used for towers elsewhere in the town if the town opted to install towers elsewhere. The response was affirmative.
 - Reno asked about the video capabilities, which could be used to deter vandalism on the trail.
 - The Wi-Fi Wireless system can relay a signal to another tower up to a mile distant.
 - Ball park cost is about \$11,000 per pole. A package of 7 poles and infrastructure at the police status would be about \$84,000.
 - Galaxy has installed towers on campuses, but not along trails. The manufacturer reports they have been installed along trails, including a lake-side trail in Detroit with sections in rough neighborhoods.

Officer Reports

- Secretary – Tom Myatt:
 - The membership count remains the same as last month at 51: 21 Bronze, 15 Silver, 8 Gold, and 7 Pathfinder.
- Treasurer – Dave Cassinelli: absent
 - No report.
 - It was suggested that Dave include in his Treasurer's report how much the Friends have authorized to be spent, but the purchases/payments are still outstanding. At this time, that would include \$800 for t-shirts and \$200 for brochures. Reno noted that the town Trail Committee will pay for the brochures.
- Vice President – Tony Niro
 - Tony has designed a business card for the trail. It was noted that Vista Print will let you get 250 for free.
 - Chris Chamberlain, the Eagle Scout, is still working on the kiosk for the trail.
- President – Margaret Myatt:
 - At the previous meeting, the question was raised: does a Friends membership have a value that must be subtracted from how much the donor can deduct? Margaret asked Attorney Laura Mann and her opinion was that the cost of membership does not have to be subtracted from the deductible amount.
 - Another question was previously raised about the benefit of having volunteers who work on the trail sign a hold harmless document. Gerry Moody advised against it. Laura Mann suggested that we get a letter from the town that the town would cover us if we are sued. Margaret will continue the dialog with Gerry.

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- The Girl Scouts and National Honor Society are asking about earning service hours by working on the trail.
- Margaret went to Purchase St market to discuss storage of table, chairs, and box of stuff for volunteers to utilize at the Dilla Street trailhead.
- There was discussion about having a contest for designing a new trail logo.

Committee Reports

- Milford Trail Committee – Reno DeLuzio
 - Phase 1:
 - Northern now thinks the completion date will move out to mid-September due to the issue with engraving on the granite at the trailheads. All decisions to resolve the issue have been agreed upon, but the lead times for work to be done have moved out.
 - Reno recommends the grand opening date not be early October, but thinks that mid-October would be safe.
 - Phase 2:
 - Mass Highway has been convinced that the alternate road project and the trail project can coexist. If the town does reject the alternate road project, then the town would need to fund finishing the trail.
 - National Grid remains a problem: the state had issued a license to use the land that the federal authorities denied (they want a lease).
 - Question to Reno about the wall along Rte 495: Will people walk along the side next to the highway or on the other side? Response: the other side, not next to the highway. A picture will be taken and put on the website for people to view.
- Special Events Committee – Pat Rosenthal
 - Pat distributed a calendar of special events:
 - Suggested that it could be put on the Friends web site. Margaret suggested using the Milford website town calendar. Will also put a link on the Friends website back to the calendar.
 - There was discussion about the Masons possibly doing a Haunted Trail on Halloween.
 - Margaret is looking into on-line newsletter software.
 - Pat is looking for people to take ownership of an event.
 - Grand Opening:
 - It was decided to postpone the Grand Opening until the spring when there could be absolute certainty about when Mass Highway will have turned the trail over to the town. We would have to schedule it too late into the fall to achieve the same level of certainty, and then the weather would be a concern.
 - Clean up event on 8/26:
 - The time and date is from 9:00 to noon on Saturday, 8/26. There is no rain date.
 - The cleanup will start at Fino Field
 - There was an article about the trail yesterday on the front page of the Milford Daily.
 - An email was distributed to Girl Scout leaders.
 - Margaret did an interview with Ed Thompson, has not heard it on the radio yet.
 - Liz Vanderwalker volunteered to make an 8.5 x 11 poster for the event.
- Fund Raising Committee – chair vacant
 - There were no volunteers or nominations for the chair.
 - Risa Eldridge and Debbie Walther volunteered to be on the committee.
 - Margaret is working on a package for businesses.

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- Safety Committee – John Edmondson
 - Topics were covered earlier by the guest speakers.
 - May look into starting a neighborhood watch in the fall.
- Publicity Committee – Nancy Wojick and Theresa Mazzarelli
 - Nothing new to report.
- Maintenance Committee – Jennene Pasquarosa
 - It was noted that most trails don't have trash receptacles, doggie bag dispenser, or porta-potties along the trail, only at the trailheads. The preference is to keep trails natural.
 - Station numbers (mile markers) would be good. Walker and bike markings on the pavement were also recommended.
 - It was suggested that maintenance be monthly, or at least to monitor its state on a regular basis.
 - Jennene would like a list of who in town does what. Margaret will invite Jennene to come to a Parks Dept meeting.
 - Two more Eagle Scouts would like to do trail projects. It was suggested they come to next meeting.
- Environmental Education Committee – Linda Konvalinka (absent)
 - No report.

Old Business

- None.

New Business

- None.

Next Meeting

Motion was made and unanimously carried to have the next meeting at 7:00 PM, Tuesday, September 5th at the Senior Center.

Adjournment

Motion was made and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 PM.