

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail  
 Minutes of the General Membership Meeting  
 November 14, 2006

**Call to Order**

Margaret Myatt called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. 16 members and 3 visitors were present.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the 10/3/2006 meeting.

**Guest Speakers**

Mark Fitzgerald:

- Motion was made and unanimously carried to approve Mark's presentation for building and installing 2 to 3 granites benches along the trail among the following locations: big bend along Louisa Lake (but so as not to detract from the setting); the top of the hill by the water company; the grassy hill near Shadowbrook on the bend; the grassy area near the baseball field; and at the overlook of the pond as you approach the Water Company from Louisa Lake. The presentation is 5 MB large and hardly compresses when zipped, so will not be sent along with the minutes unless an individual member requests it.
- Mark will return to the Friends meeting after he has approval from the Parks Dept and his Scout Council.

**Officer Reports**

- Secretary – Tom Myatt:  
 The membership count has increased from 65 at the September meeting to 68: 34 Bronze, 17 Silver, 10 Gold, and 7 Pathfinder. An additional 6 membership forms and dues were turned in at the meeting, including the first Trailblazer membership this year, a \$500 contribution from Nancy DeLuzio (Reno's mother).

- Treasurer – Dave Cassinelli:

Income

Previous year carry forward	\$	1,889.96	
Membership dues	\$	1,890.00	
Contributions	\$	0.64	
Advertisement	\$	0.00	
Interest	\$	2.29	
Pay Pal deposits	\$	105.00	
Fundraising	\$	590.00	
Total Income			\$ 4,477.89

Expenses

Stamps	\$	16.99	
Pay Pal fees	\$	4.86	
U.S. Treasury	\$	150.00	
Ridgewood printing	\$	762.00	
Total Expenses			\$ 933.85

Remainder \$ 3,544.04

- Vice President – Tony Niro: absent
  - No report.
- President – Margaret Myatt:
  - Margaret reported that Annie and Barnes McNevin are planning to grant the trail \$2,500 from their family's Harmon Foundation. Some publicity will be arranged when the grant is made, probably early next year.

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- The next trail clean up has been deferred until spring, given the good state of the trail.

**Committee Reports**

- Trail Committee Report – Reno DeLuzio
  - Granite work around entrances is nearly done but the signage is not finished yet. It looks like the trail will certainly be completely finished in the spring, so late spring or early summer would be a safe time to plan the grand opening event.
  - Town Meeting approved all the easements. Everything looks good for Phase 2 except that National Grid is still an issue (99-year license versus lease). The selectman approved going forward regardless of the National Grid issue.
  - Reno was asked if there will there be signage for the Town Forest Trail at its juncture with the bike trail. Reno said it's not in the original plan – can be a future project.
  - Reno suggested that Margaret should look into a TIF agreement for Mid-Town Racquet Club in which they agreed to commit \$2000 to town for bike trail. She should see if this obligation is still outstanding.
  - Reno cautioned that people walking on the trail should wear orange during the December hunting season (about 10 days). Nancy will do a press release, radio and TV announcement. The warning should also be put on the trail website, and some temporary signs should be put up on the trail.
  
- Special Events Committee – Pat Rosenthal
  - Pat reported that the dog walk was not a big success. She will make some adjustments and try again.
  - A quarry hike can be planned but there is still a concern about liability.
  - Pat explained about INSPIRE, an educational organization that puts together programs for all out adventure.
  - Pat conducted a presentation for the Troop 2 Boy Scouts.
  - Pat went to the Hopkinton Trails Club. Pat is willing to be a liaison between the Milford Friends and the Hopkinton club. They have a book on trail maintenance they are willing to share with us. And they are interested in how we achieved tax-deductible status.
  - American Karate is willing to do a demonstration on self defense. Pat took the 4-week course of weekly 1 hour classes. It was suggest that we approach them about becoming a corporate sponsor and putting them on our website.
  
- Fund Raising Committee – chair vacant
  - No report.
  
- Safety Committee – John Edmondson
  - Nothing new to report.
  
- Publicity Committee – Nancy Wojick: absent
  - Nancy noted she is running low on brochures. She will speak to Tony about revising the format by putting the membership form on it (in place of some of the pictures).
  - Nancy is looking into if the Mid-Town Fitness Club will sell t-shirts for us.
  
- Maintenance Committee – Jennene Pasquarosa: absent
  - No report.
  
- Environmental Education Committee – Linda Konvalinka
  - Linda said she has been talking to people she meets on the trail about the trail environment
  - Linda explained about the autumn olive that is present along the trail. It is an invasive species, originally planted to prevent erosion. The University of Maryland published a report that says the

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plant's edible berry is nutritious. Linda suggested that we could make jelly or fruit leather from the berry and sell it in the fall. This would have the additional benefit of getting rid of some seeds that would otherwise propagate.

**Old Business**

No old business.

**New Business**

Motion was made and unanimously carried to amend Article 3, Section 4 of the bylaws as follows: the sentence "Dues shall be payable upon joining, and thereafter at the beginning of each fiscal year." was replaced by the sentence "Dues shall be payable upon joining, and thereafter upon a member's annual anniversary."

**Next Meeting**

Motion was made and unanimously carried to have the next meeting at 7:00 PM, Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Center. Meeting will not be held during December or the first Tuesday in January due to the holidays.

**Adjournment**

Motion was made and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM.