

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
May 6, 2008

Call to Order

- Pat Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. 12 members and 14 visitors were present.

Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made and carried to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2008 meeting.

Guest Presentations

- Dr. Robert A. Gilmore, Faculty Advisor for the Stacy Middle School Science Club and members of the club expressed an interest in performing a science-based community service learning project related to reducing invasive plant species along the trail. This would include identifying and eradicating the invasives and replacing them with native plant species. The club would also participate in clean-up efforts along the trail. They would like to post signage to educate the public about the invasive plants and how to avoid spreading them. They would keep a science journal detailing their efforts and document the process using video and photography. This would be an ongoing community service learning project and they would work to obtain local assistance and support from like-minded organizations in the community. They group adjourned along with Linda Konvalinka to explore a nearby area of the trail to begin identifying problem areas.

Dave Casinelli suggested that they would be able to work with the Adopt a Trail partners and Tom Myatt noted that some financial support could be available from the Friends group.

- Mark Fitzgerald updated the group on his Eagle Scout granite bench project. He has funding in place for 4 benches with major funding for 3 of them from the Milford Junior Women's Club and the other from his grandparents. He is in the process of choosing sites for the benches and it was suggested that it might be nice to group them so that people could gather. A motion was made and carried to authorize an expenditure of up to \$500.00 to support Mark's efforts.

Officer Reports

Pat Rosenthal – President

- Pat and Dave Casinelli recently appeared on the new Chanel 8 show titled Eye on Milford. They were interviewed by Mike Shain and Jane Bigda regarding the trail and the role of the Friends.
- Spencer Carlin is waiting final approval for his Eagle Scout kiosk project. He has received offers of financial support from Stroller Fit and from the Firefighters.
- Morgan Construction will be holding a health fair in Worcester on May 22 and we will have a table top display with a map, brochures and a t-shirt.
- The website upgrade project with Blackstone Valley Tech has been put on hold until next year.

Vice President – Dave Casinelli

- No report

Secretary – Nancy Wojick

- We currently have 63 members. Eight renewal notices have been sent this month and 2 returned to date.

Treasurer – Tom Myatt

- Balance (combined Checking and PayPal): \$14,430.53
- There are approximately \$4,000 in committed expenditures, leaving about \$10,000 uncommitted. Since 3/31:

New income:

Bank interest:	\$ 2.04
Membership fees:	\$ 140.00
Bench donations	<u>\$2,200.00</u>
Total	\$2,342.04

New expenditures:

Waters kiosk	\$ 385.00
Family Fun Fair material	\$ 109.35
Website domain name	\$ 18.68
Doggie bags	\$ 220.00
PayPal fees	<u>\$ 32.20</u>

Committee Reports

- Maintenance and Enhancements – Dave Casinelli
 - There was a Trail Count done on May 6 from 7:30-9:30 AM and from 4:00-6:00 PM. There were 44 users in the morning and 212 in the evening. Help is needed for the May 17 count. These user counts are done all over the state in order to get information to aid in signalization for trails.
 - Dave has 3 Adopt a Trail applications in hand. Midtown Family Fitness Center would like to adopt the section from Votolato Field to Dilla Street. A&R Landscaping would like to adopt the section from Dunkin Donuts to the Votolato Field intersection. The Masons would like to adopt the section from a granite post marker beyond the Shadowbrook spur up to the Water company property. Motions were made and passed to accept all three applications. They join the Alternatives Unlimited groups who will do the section from the commuter parking lot up to the Votolato Field intersection.
 - There are now 16 granite benches approved for Phase 1 of the trail. That will be all for this phase. 6 have been installed; 3 are scheduled for installation. Pending are the 4 from Mark Fitzgerald and 2 from the Permanent Firefighters Association.
 - The Firefighters have proposed mile marker signs and stenciling distances along the trail. It was motioned and passed that there will be stenciling done in ¼ mile increments starting at the commuter parking lot trail head and ending at Deer St. They will be one way only and will be yellow or white.
- Education and Activities – Christine Haslam and Linda Konvalinka
 - Linda will work with the Stacy Middle School Science Club and Dr. Gilmore on the invasive species project.
 - Christine is looking to develop a regular schedule for activities that will get like minded people together. Some suggestions were for a bike ride, geocaching, bird watching, bike maintenance workshops, etc.

New Business

- Sgt. Sacco distributed copies of a report detailing phone calls made relating to the trail.
- He has applied for a grant to get bike helmets and has been notified that 125 helmets will be coming. He will work with us to distribute them at an upcoming event.

Old Business

- The ads on the website will be revisited and Pat will work on updating the policy.
- Tom Myatt made a motion to reimburse Margaret \$18.68 for domain name renewal. It was approved.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM.

