

# **Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail**

## **Minutes of the General Membership Meeting**

### **June 3, 2008**

#### **Call to order**

- Pat Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. 13 members and 3 visitors were present

#### **Approval of Minutes**

- A motion was made and carried to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2008 meeting.

#### **Guest Presentations**

- Mark Fitzgerald updated us on his bench project. There will be 4 benches placed at the section of the trail near the first base line of Fino Field. They will be placed on one large concrete pad 2 x 2 facing each other. Three of the benches will be engraved with the Milford Jr. Women's Club lettering; the fourth will be his grandparents. Mr. Nylan has offered to help him with the concrete work. To date he has not been able to contact A&R Landscaping to confirm other site work details.
- Sgt. David Sacco distributed a listing of the last 2 months police activity reports. Most of the problems occur in the Louisa Lake parking area. He feels that this is due to the easy access to Route 495. We will have a safety note on the website reminding people to put valuables out of site and lock their vehicles while using the trail. The chief will have bike patrols in addition to the motorcycle patrols this summer. The patrols are scheduled on an hourly basis however with vacations it might be a little less frequent. The problems are not happening on the trail itself.

The Sgt. Also presented the Friends group with 2 posters relating to helmet safety and notified us that 125 helmets have been received for our use.

#### **Officer Reports**

##### **Pat Rosenthal – President**

- Pat reported that we had a table display at the Morton Construction Co. Health Fair on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

##### **Dave Cassinelli – Vice President**

- Dave thanked all for their participation in the Trail count. On the Saturday there was an average of 102.5 people per hour. This information will be passed on to be combined with other trails input.

##### **Nancy Wojick – Secretary**

- We currently have 62 members. June will be a benchmark month; there will be 19 renewal requests going out.

Tom Myatt – Treasurer

- Balance (combined Checking and PayPal): \$16,612.91
- There is \$5,625 in committed expenditures, leaving about \$11,000 uncommitted.
- Since the treasurer report included in the minutes of the May meeting:

New income

Bench donations	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
Total	\$2,000.00

New expenditures

Directors & officer insurance	\$ 804.00
Spring trail cleanup supplies	<u>\$ 60.66</u>
Total	\$ 864.66

- Also, we received the sales tax exemption certificate from the state. Wal-mart, Staples, Lowes, and Swenson Granite will be established with our exempt number.

**Committees**

Reno Deluzio – Milford Upper Charles Trail

- Phase 2 is progressing with bid packs due to go out in July from Mass Highway. There are no permitting or design issues that should present problems; however, the National Grid property is still an issue. We should have a spring of 2009 start date and it is a 12-18 month project.
- The new office part going in off of Route 85 will result in a complete reconfiguration of the 495 ramps and widening of the road. The developer has agreed to put in flashing beacons for pedestrian safety.
- Dilla Street crossing is still an issue and they will try again for a flashing beacon there.

Dave Cassinelli – Maintenance and Enhancement

- Benches are coming close to completion; all engraving is being approved by the donors and then installation will be coordinated.
- The Waters Corp. kiosk for Louisa Lake is almost finished at Blackstone Valley Tech. There was a discussion regarding installation options and it was decided to place it on the first curve near the parking lot and perpendicular to the trail so that it could be read from both sides by trail users. Dave and Sheldon will coordinate installation with the students and try to give them well deserved publicity. We would also like to get the map up.

- There has been no news from Spencer Carlin on his kiosk project for the Commuter Parking Lot.
- No additional signups for the Adopt a trail program. Dave asks that we use the evaluation sheets to track progress on this and to call attention to areas that require upkeep.
- The Firefighters have backed off of the mileage stenciling and we will do that ourselves. It will start marking at the trail head by Sacred Heart and be marked in quarter mile increments up to Deer St. Marking will be done on one side of the trail only.

#### Christine Haslam and Linda Konvalinka - Education and Activities

- Christine participated in a recent Quarry Hike presented by the Historical Society which was very well attended.
- Linda sent an update regarding her project with the Middle School Science Club regarding identification of invasive species and removal of such to be replaced with native plants. Due to scheduling conflicts this will start up again in the fall.
- June 14 there will be a group bike ride
- June 17 there will be a Geocaching outing along the trail starting at 6:30.
- June 25 there will be a Bird watching outing from 7-8 PM.
- Please check the website calendar for event detail.

#### Fundraising and Membership

- The Chair position remains vacant.
- There was a discussion regarding the need for signing up new members. While there is always the need for people who simply wish to contribute money and not time it is felt that we need to find more people who are willing to step up to leadership positions. Different venues were discussed for awareness campaign such as a table week-ends by the kiosk; a cookout; a scavenger hunt for kids. Nothing definitive.

#### New Business

- The following motions were made and carried:
  1. To spend up to \$500.00 to install an access gate in the fence bordering trail By Fino Field where Alternatives Unlimited is the Adopt a Trail sponsor so they can clean behind the fence.
  2. To spend up to \$200 for membership decals to be distributed to new and existing members as a thank you gesture as well as to raise awareness.
  3. To spend up to \$7,500 on acquisition, engraving and installation of 6 benches.
  4. To spend up to \$500 for signs and installation materials for Adopt a Trail sponsor signs.
  5. To spend up to \$100 for 3 Call 911 signs to be installed on existing poles at the trail heads.
  6. To spend up to \$200 for refreshments for kiosk installation personnel.

### **Old Business**

- We will investigate the feasibility of installing a composting toilet in the Louisa Lake area. If is possible we will add it to our Wish List. Reno suggested that improved picnic tables and benches also be added to the list.
- At the September meeting there will be 3 Director Positions open. Please consider standing for election. This is a 2 year term. If you are interested please let Pat know prior to the meeting.
- We will not hold a July meeting. However, the Board of Directors will meet on June 21.

Our next meeting will be held on August 5.

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