

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
August 5, 2008

Call to order

- Pat Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. 10 members and 2 visitors were present.

Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made and carried to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2008 meeting.

Guest Presentations

- Joe Ducharme from Clivus Composting Toilets made a very comprehensive presentation on the available models and their different features. He addressed a wide variety of site conditions that would affect the price, and also listed the services that are available from his company for maintenance of the product. The pricing ranged roughly from \$30,000 - \$50,000.
- Lauren Marciszyn from the Hockomock YMCA in Franklin is developing a program called Activate America to support healthy lifestyles. September 20-27 is Activate America Week and they are targeting 6-10 year olds to get involved. They would like to do a walk on the trail and was requesting help from the Friends group in organizing the day. There was a discussion regarding doing a membership drive, raffles, information table, etc. Christine Haslam will work with Lauren to develop details.
- Sgt. Sacco was absent due to illness.

Officer Reports

Pat Rosenthal – President

- The July trail counts on July 12th and 15th went well. On Saturday at Louisa Lake there was an average of 69 users and at Fino Field 46. On Tuesday average was 63 at Louisa Lake and 93 at Fino Field.
- The Bike Helmet program was tied to membership drives and was a big success. At Plains Park at the 4th of July event we gave away 50 helmets and signed up 8 new members. At the Saturday trail count at Louisa Lake 20 helmets were given out mostly to older users and roller bladders. 5 new members were signed up. And at the Band Concert 30 helmets were given out and 1 new member signed up.
- The Kiosk at Louisa Lake is up! Tony Niro will coordinate placement of a large trail map as well as signage with the trail name, website, as well as a plaque acknowledging Waters Corp and the Blackstone Valley Tech contributions.
- Margaret Myatt has done a great job updating our website
- Sept. 13 Pat will attend a meeting “Massachusetts Rail Trails: Linking Together” which will explore joining together the many fragmented rail trails in order to gain

more power in promoting the development of trails. The attendance is limited to 100 and leaders of Friends groups will be the participants.

- Pat has contacted the Department of Conservation and Recreation and asked that we be added to their website with a link to our site.

Dave Cassinelli – Vice President

- Dave was absent so Pat reported that the benches are finished and will be installed soon.
- The Adopt a Trail program has 3 confirmed sponsors: Alternatives, the Masons, and Midtown Family Fitness. He has not been able to contact A&R Landscaping so it appears that they have decided not to participate in the program.

Nancy Wojick – Secretary

- Current Paid Membership is 49 totaling \$1,390.00 in dues paid.

BRONZE	29
GOLD	3
SILVER	11
PATHFINDER	6

Second Renewal letters with no response to date: 15

First Renewal letters currently out: 4

Remainder of Renewals for the year to go out: 7

- Adopt a Trail signs, Emergency 911 signs and sponsor decals completed.

Tom Myatt – Treasurer

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail

Treasurer Report: 1/1/08 - 7/31/08

Milford Federal Saving & Loan Checking Account

		Percentages
Opening Balance	\$ 12,024.70	
Income		
Donations		
General	\$ 40.00	0.5%
Granite Benches	\$ 6,400.00	78.4%
Interest	\$ 7.63	0.1%
Membership Fees	\$ 1,365.00	16.7%
T-Shirt Sales	\$ 40.00	0.5%

Unknown Income (from prior years)	\$ 307.50	3.8%
Total Income	\$ 8,160.13	100%
Expenses		
Appreciation	\$ 127.58	1.7%
Education	\$ 109.35	1.5%
Fees		
PayPal Fees	\$ 41.67	0.6%
Website Fees	\$ 18.68	0.3%
Insurance - D&O	\$ 804.00	10.9%
Publicity	\$ 77.96	1.1%
Trail Improvement		
Bat & Bird Houses	\$ 175.00	2.4%
Doggie Bags	\$ 220.00	3.0%
Granite Benches	\$ 5,252.70	71.4%
Kiosks	\$ 464.20	6.3%
Spring Clean Up	\$ 60.66	0.8%
Total Expense	\$ 7,351.80	100%
Net Change	\$ 808.33	
Closing Balance	\$ 12,833.03	
Open Spending Authorizations	\$ 4,244.10	
Uncommitted Available Funds	\$ 8,588.93	

Committee Reports

Maintenance and Enhancement – Dave Cassinelli

- The distance marking project is still under discussion.

Education and Activities – Christine Haslam

- The Geocache event was fun and more will be planned.

Membership and Fundraising – Chair vacant

Milford Upper Charles Trail – Reno DeLuzio

- Phase 2 100% design almost complete and there should be a November bid date on the project. There was a major problem in June when the project was dropped from the budget. However Reno, Sen. Moore, Rep. Fernandes and others mounted a letter writing campaign and met with the committee and got us back on the books.
- National Grid lease is moving along.
- Beginning Phase 3 planning. The Town is required to fund 10% of the project – approximately \$150,000.

Old Business

- Julie Rosenthal again presented her idea for doing a big advertising campaign and cook-out as a membership outreach. No consensus was arrived at; however she and Christine Haslam will talk to Lauren Marciszyn and Dave Cassinelli about the Sept. 27 date and options for that walk.
- Pat Rosenthal again stressed the value of networking with other trail groups by listing their events on our website and also encouraged others to look at the Hopkinton Trails group page.

New Business

- Christine Haslam discussed a problem she had encountered at Louisa Lake involving used fishing line wrapped around the neck of a goose. She was able to free the bird but then began looking around the site and found a large amount of line on the ground and in the trees. She investigated on line and found a design for containers that would enable people to deposit their old line rather than leave it around as a hazard. She will work with Tony Niro and making and installing these.
- Julie Rosenthal suggested placing plastic cut out silhouettes of coyotes around Louisa Lake to scare geese away. However they need to be move frequently and vandalism still remains a problem. Reno said that the Parks Department has been working on the goose issue at all of the parks with little success and that Mike Bresciani should be contacted before pursuing any further.

Our next meeting will be held on September 2. Pat reminded that the Director elections will be held at that meeting. Also, an Environmental Officer will be doing a presentation.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM.