

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
October 7, 2008

Call to Order

- Pat Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. There were 12 members and 2 visitors present.

*Due to a conflicting meeting obligation Reno DeLuzio requested that he be allowed to present his report out of order. Reno was pleased to tell us that at long last National Grid negotiations appear to have ended in a lease agreement that is acceptable to all parties. Construction will begin in the spring as planned. He also asked that all members come to the October 27th Town Meeting at 7:30 to support the request for an expenditure of \$18,000.00 for a flashing beacon on Dilla St.

Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made and carried to approve the minutes of the September 2 meeting.

Officer Reports

Pat Rosenthal – President

- There was another successful Trail Count done in September at Fino Field and at Louisa Lake. The counts done in July and September tallied close to 1,000 people a day.
- On September 13 she and Dave Cassinelli went to Leominster for a meeting hosted by the Massachusetts Central Rail Trail Organization. The idea is to create improved communication for all of the trail projects in Massachusetts.
“Things are too fragmented or disjointed and there is no real compelling and clear voice for this issue in the Massachusetts State House.”
- On September 10th Alternatives hosted a celebration in Worcester that included the presentation of the Community Bridging Award to the Friends in recognition of our efforts to give all people a chance to get involved in community activities. Pat displayed the award to the group.
- The Harmon Foundation is in the process of establishing their grants for the upcoming year and Pat has been in touch with Barnes and Ann McNevin. Their past generosity has been critical to our success and we are hoping to receive another grant in 2009.
- The new t-shirts are in. We will be selling them for \$10.00 in the hope of making a \$4.00 profit on each shirt. 100 were ordered in various sizes.

Vice-President – Dave Cassinelli

- No Report

Treasurer – Tom Myatt

**Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail
Treasurer Report: 1/1/08 - 10/4/08**

Milford Federal Saving & Loan Checking Account

		Percentages
Opening Balance	\$ 12,024.70	
Income		
Donations		
General	\$ 70.00	0.8%
Granite Benches	\$ 6,400.00	75.7%
Interest	\$ 9.79	0.1%
Lottery Ticket Sales	\$ 25.00	0.3%
Membership Fees	\$ 1,600.00	18.9%
T-Shirt Sales	\$ 40.00	0.5%
Unknown Income (from prior years)	<u>\$ 307.50</u>	<u>3.6%</u>
Total Income	\$ 8,452.29	100%
Expenses		
Appreciation	\$ 127.58	1.2%
Education	\$ 109.35	1.1%
Fees		
Conference	\$ 24.00	0.2%
PayPal Fees	\$ 45.17	0.4%
Website Fees	\$ 18.68	0.2%
Fund Raising		
Lottery Winning Payout	\$ 25.00	0.2%
T-Shirts Purchase	\$ 605.00	5.9%
Insurance - D&O	\$ 804.00	7.8%
Postage	\$ 9.44	0.1%
Publicity	\$ 256.46	2.5%
Trail Improvement		
Bat & Bird Houses	\$ 175.00	1.7%

Doggie Bags	\$	220.00	2.1%
Granite Benches	\$	7,052.70	68.2%
Kiosks	\$	541.88	5.2%
Signage	\$	260.17	2.5%
Spring Clean Up	\$	60.66	0.6%
Total Expense	\$	10,335.09	100%
Net Change	\$	(1,882.80)	
Closing Balance	\$	10,141.90	
Open Spending Authorizations	\$	1,612.13	
Uncommitted Available Funds	\$	8,529.77	

Opening Spending Authorizations:

	<u>Authorized</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Remaining</u>
Spencer Carlen Eagle Scout Kiosk	\$ 225.00	\$ -	\$ 225.00
Six granite benches	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,052.70	\$ 447.30
Access gate in fence	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Adopt-a-Trail signs	\$ 500.00	\$ 224.17	\$ 275.83
911 signs	\$ 100.00	\$ 36.00	\$ 64.00
Install trail map on kiosk	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
			\$ 1,612.13

Secretary – Nancy Wojick

- Current enrollment is 55 resulting in income of \$1,600.00. We have one new enrollment (from the Health Fair), one new renewal and one pending membership (someone filled out form at the Health Fair but didn't have any money and said he would send check – I have sent him a reminder.) to be documented.
- There are 8 renewals outstanding before year end.

Committee Reports

Maintenance and Enhancement – Dave Cassinelli

- 3 Adopt a Trail Sponsor signs have been installed for Alternatives, Midtown, and the Masons. We are still waiting for organization's to provide art work.
- We need to develop a plan to get more Adopt a Trail Sponsors
- Annual Fall Clean up Day – Nov 15th from 9-12am. Motion was made & approved for up to \$250 to cover the cost of supplies & advertising. Gas powered weed whackers, edge trimmers & backpack blowers specifically needed to regain 2-4 inches of trail from

encroaching growth along the edges. If not maintained, this will begin to erode the asphalt edges of the trail.

- Sheldon presented a plan for stenciling mile markers. Someone has very generously offered to do this at no cost to us. Basically the trail would have 3 different designations: one from the commuter parking lot, and one from the Dunkin Donuts entrance to “ground zero” where these two sections intersect with the main trail. They would be A, B and C with mileage noted at ¼ mile increments. For example, in an emergency the caller could say they are at “A1/2”. We would need to be sure the Police and Fire personnel had master maps, and one would be posted on the kiosk. It was decided that white paint should be used and the stenciling should be done on the right hand side. Sheldon was going to present the information to Reno for final approval.

Education and Activities – Christine Haslam and Linda Konvalinka

- In Christine’s absence Pat read her thanks to all for helping with the Health Fair booth.
- She is investigating aquatic weed watcher’s program
- On October 14th there will be a Full Moon Hike (rain date October 15)
- On October 18th there will be a geocache “lesson”
- Julie presented an idea to have a Halloween activity on October 26. She will work with Christine and Linda. Dave agreed to follow up with Mike Shain on the annual Pumpkin Stroll date to avoid a potential conflict.
- A motion was made and passed to spend up to \$200.00 for the Halloween event.
- Bikes Not Bombs will be at the November 15 clean-up day. They collect electronics as well as bikes. Please refer to their website for complete details: www.bikesnotbombs.org
- The most recent dog walk (Oct 5th) was not successful.

Publicity – Julie Rosenthal

- Julie reminded everyone of the lead times for newspaper, radio and TV

New Business

- It has been noticed that there is a rather elaborate tree house being constructed directly off of the trail near the Shadowbrook complex. Linda Morley volunteered to contact the management at Shadowbrook to see if it had their approval.

Old Business

- Linda noted the necessity to clean out the old bird’s nests and bee’s nests from the bird houses on the November 15.

There will be no November meeting because of Election Day.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 2.

Motion was made to adjourn at 8:15.