

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
March 2, 2010

Call to Order

- Dave Cassinelli called the meeting to order to 7:05. There were 11 members and 3 guests in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

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

Guest Presentations

- Our New liaison from the Police Department is Sgt. Sanchioni.
 - He reported that they patrol the trail from 4PM to midnight every day except in the winter. There are no significant crime issues that have developed.
 - Sgt. Sanchioni is applying for a grant to get free helmets (perhaps as many as 125). He will know in the April/May time frame.
 - They will enforce the leash law.
- Robert Weidknecht from the Holliston Trail Committee updated us on their progress
 - They will have a 6.7 mile long segment soon. It will be partially paved but will not have fencing etc. There is still some land acquisition taking place.
- Reno DeLuzio reported.
 - Phase 2 is running late, however activity should pick up now at both ends. No major issues have arisen to date and he anticipates a late summer, early fall 2011 completion date.
 - Phase 3: Reno, Rob Weidknecht and Bob Buckley from the conservation Committee walked this area trying to find an acceptable interim route through streets as the area off road is very difficult terrain. This project will be very expensive and long time in the future. It will need pro bono and volunteer work from contractors.

Officer Reports

- Dave Cassinelli – President
 - Dave received a letter from Dino and the Board of Selectmen regarding complaints of dog problems on the trail. We will respond and ask that in the future it would be helpful if these incidents could be reported to us as they occur with facts regarding time and place. This will make it easier to enforce.
 - The very generous \$2,500.00 donation from the Harmon Foundation was acknowledged and Dave has written a thank you to them.
 - Spencer Carlin will provide a copy for approval before producing the message board on the kiosk at the Sacred Heart parking lot trail head.
 - Dave will work on developing a chain of command with the Parks Dept. to help clarify responsibilities of the town departments and the Friends in maintaining the trail. We need to become more politically connected.
- Marie Clemente – Vice President
 - No report

- Tom Myatt – Treasurer

**Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail
Treasurer Report: 1/1/10 - 2/28/10**

		Dollars	
Opening Balance			\$ 15,280.91
Checking Account, 0.1%		\$ 8,281.55	
CD: 2/27/10, 6-mth, 0.8%		\$ 5,000.00	
CD: 2/27/10, 13-mth, 1.35%		\$ 5,000.00	
Income:			
Donations		\$ 2,845.00	
Clean Portable Restrooms	\$ 250.00		
Harmon Foundation	\$ 2,500.00		
Khalsa	\$ 20.00		
Raymond Norris	\$ 75.00		
Interest		\$ 2.75	
Membership Fees		\$ 170.00	
Total Income		\$ 3,017.75	
Expenses:			
Fees		\$ 8.31	
Postage		\$ 8.80	
Total Expense		\$ 17.11	
Net Change			\$ 3,000.64
Closing Balance			\$ 18,281.55
Open Spending Authorizations			\$ 1,212.64
Uncommitted Available Funds			\$ 17,068.91

Opening Spending Authorizations:	<u>Authorized</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Remaining</u>
# 08-15: Adopt-a-Trail signs	\$ 500.00	\$ 267.36	\$ 232.64
# 09-04: Dog rule pamphlets	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
# 09-10: Spencer Carlin kiosk	\$ 225.00	\$ -	\$ 225.00
# 09-15: Town Crier ad - 1/8 page	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
# 09-19: Kiosk hardware	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00
# 09-20: Birdhouse materials	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
# 09-24: Doggie bags	\$ 500.00	\$ 245.00	\$ 255.00
# 09-27: "Proud Member": decals	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00
			\$ 1,212.64

- Nancy Wojick – Secretary
 - There are currently 109 members. We had 1 new, 4 renewal Bronze; 2 new Silver and 1 Pathfinder renewal.
 - We will be trying out some new software for membership management to improve record keeping methods and ease of communication to members. It would also integrate with the new website.

Committee Reports

- Marie Clemente – Maintenance and Enhancement
 - Marie would like to get quotes from landscapers to do edging, mulching, etc. and then ask the Adoptees to chip in to pay for this. Reno suggested seeing what Parks or Highway has for equipment that could help first. Linda Konvalinka also

would like to get a weed wrench to better remove invasives. She also noted that we need to be time sensitive with these projects so as not to spread the seed and make matters worse. Linda is thinking of writing a grant request and we could provide matching funds to get funding for this project. Theresa also suggested that students from the Norfolk Agricultural school might be able to help us. It was agreed that Marie would pursue pricing quotes from landscapers.

- Julie Rosenthal – Publicity
 - Julie sent out press releases with photos regarding our new vests for the Animal Control officers, as well as the vandalism to the bird houses but nothing has been published to date
- Education and Enhancement
 - No report
- Membership and Fundraising
 - No report

Old Business

- The Family Fun Fair was well attended
- There was no snow shoe event due to lack of snow

New Business

- Julie volunteered to coordinate the Easter Egg Hunt again this year. Date is March 27th with no rain date. Registration will be required to better control numbers. A motion was made and approved to spend up to \$350.00 on the event.
- It was decided to change the meeting schedule to a monthly schedule April through October with no meeting in July. The meetings will continue to be held at the Senior Center at 7:00 on the first Tuesday of the month.
- There was a discussion on how to protect the bird houses along the trail. No formal decision was made but nailing them to trees above the reach of vandals was suggested. The only problem with this is the cleaning out process would be difficult.
- The spring cleanup will be held on Saturday April 24. Meet at Fino Field at 9:00. Gloves and bags will be provided. Discussion on edging and but no firm decision made as to whether to tackle it then or wait for landscaper quotes. Rain date will be May 1. A motion was made and approved to spend up to \$100.00 for materials.
- There is a vendor in place (Parish Productions recommended by Dick Flocks) who will review our requirements for updating the website. Pat Rosenthal will work with him in developing the project.
- Dave Cassinelli has set up the trail on Facebook
- Dave's wife Paula has volunteered to maintain a photographic record of the Phase 2 development.
- Dqve suggested an Open House type of event to gather with old and new members. Linda thought maybe a trail walk would be good for this.
- Dave also discussed a "Hopscotch" project similar to one done along a trail in Tennessee to raise money and to get into the Guinness Book of Records. Further discussion needed as to how to promote the event, sell the squares, and what to do with any funds raised.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.