

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail

Minutes of the General Meeting May 1, 2012

- President Pat Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.
- There were 9 members and 3 guests present.
- Motion was made and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the April meeting.

Guests:

Rob Davis is the senior pastor of the Vineyard Church in Hopkinton. He explained that the church tries to help the community and would like to adopt a section of the trail from the Hopkinton trail head to Route 85. This actually comprises two sections but the church would do both until another adopter becomes available to take over one of the sections. Walden Woods is a possible candidate. It was moved and unanimously passed to accept the Vineyard Church into the Adopt the Trail program. Pat has their logo which she will give to Dick.

John and Cepta Vernon and friends would like to adopt a section of the trail from the Route 495 crossing by Wendy's to Rte 85 traffic light (Wildcat Pond). It was moved and unanimously passed to accept them into the Adopt the Trail program.

Brett Staupe verbally indicated that he would like to adopt the Zain Ridge to Beaver St section of trail. Pat suggested that he gather several others as a group & provide his application at the next meeting.

Officers and Committee Reports:

Chairman, Milford Upper Charles Trail Committee – Reno DeLuzio

Reno was absent and had not submitted a report ahead of time.

President – Pat Rosenthal

Most of Pat's report was covered under general meeting discussions. She also noted that the Little Engine That Could is looking for \$1000.00 for template for a stamp to mark concrete to on a historic walking trail in Milford and have approached asked the Friends if we would be willing to help with a donation toward the purchase of the stamp. Some people are in favor of making a contribution if the Milford Upper Charles Trail will be part of the walking trail to be marked. It was decided to table the discussion until more information is available, hopefully at our next meeting. Members want to know which part of our trail will be included and how will they mark that portion of the trail (the stamp is for marking concrete). Pat will reach out to Lauren Marczyzyn with an invite to attend the next meeting & address the group directly

Vice President – Dave Cassinelli

Dave was absent and had given his report in advance to Pat. Dave suggested buying a blower for trail maintenance. See motion made under new business. He also noted that the Beaver St crossing has a tremendous amount of cigarette butts on it and that it might be helpful to have a cigarette butt can. The group thinks that people are throwing them out of car windows so that may not help. Some think hotel guests/employees are responsible. Lots of junk by CITGO gas station on Senior Center section of trail and graffiti on fence. Nancy will contact building inspector and board of health about leaving dumpster, and talk to the bank directly. Members of the Adopt a trail program who see major problems should report issues to Dick who will engage the M&E committee with follow up.

Treasurer – Tom Myatt

Tom circulated the treasurer report for the period from 1/1/12 to 4/30/12:

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail
Treasurer Report: 1/1/12 - 4/30/12

	Dollars	
Opening Balance		15,448.95
Income		
Donations - General	715.00	
Interest (checking & CD's)	5.37	
Membership Fees	1,090.00	
Website Advertisements	<u>1,200.00</u>	
Total Income	3,010.37	
Expenses		
Administrative Supplies	54.00	
Doggie Bag Stations	401.00	
Doggie Bags	366.00	
Fees - Paypal	7.17	
Fees - Government	18.50	
Handicap Safety Guard	108.69	
Kiosk Maps	180.00	
Signage	257.69	
Trail Brochures	171.50	
Website Development	<u>700.00</u>	
Total Expense	2,264.55	
Net Change		745.82
Closing Balance		<u>16,194.77</u>
Open Spending Authorizations		<u>3,082.00</u>
Uncommitted Available Funds		13,112.77

Opening Spending Authorizations:	Authorized	Expended	Remaining
# 11-07 Administrative supplies	200.00	129.00	71.00
# 11-10 Trash barrels	200.00	0.00	200.00
# 11-17 Website development	1,000.00	700.00	300.00
# 11-18 Doggie bag stations	700.00	401.00	299.00
# 12-01 Doggie bags	1,500.00	611.00	889.00
# 12-04 Decals for new members	150.00	0.00	150.00
# 12-06 Officers & Directors Insurance	923.00	0.00	923.00
# 12-08 Joseph Nunez's kiosk expenses	150.00	0.00	150.00
# 12-10 Spring clean up expenses	100.00	0.00	<u>100.00</u>
			3,082.00

Secretary – Margaret Myatt

Margaret was absent and had not submitted a report ahead of time.

Maintenance and Enhancements

Nancy: Earth Day debrief: Largest turnout ever; trail in pretty good shape overall; not a lot of litter; some concern about stone dust. Pat noted we had about 45 volunteers helping.

Dick ran into the county sheriff at a meeting who said he can supply workers from the jail to help with any heavy lifting. After notifying the Parks Department, we would coordinate directly with the sheriff.

Another memorial bench is going in on the section across from Walden Woods. The sponsor (Cutrona) is working with Dave. The cost including installation is \$1055.00, and the sponsor is contributing \$1200.00, so the extra amount will be a \$45.00 donation to the Trail.

Pat mentioned that she is looking into some benches that would satisfy the requirements for handicap benches.

At the end of the trail at the Senior Center, you come down a steep hill and take a sharp right into the parking lot. Nancy recommends posting permanent warning signs and also widening the length of fence where the trail ends.

Blowers for stone dust: Dick went to 2 places. One had a commercial grade model that was actually \$10 cheaper than a personal grade model at \$150.00. Quote for a backpack version was \$220.00. Group agreed that the backpack model would be best. Motion was made under New Business below. Adopt a Trail people can borrow blower at different times, not just use on clean up day after participating in a mandatory training on proper usage and handling. One of the board members can store it.

Brett: from crossing on Beaver St, noticing water draining stone dust into ravine. Pat suggested that this could be handled by the Highway Dept. Also notice a small sinkhole a foot or so from the edge that he filled in. Someone sprayed graffiti on the trail bed. Brett mentioned someone was dumping lots of leaves near the place where the junk was that he reported. He also identified an area with a steep drop off near Milford National Bank which resulted from last fall's hurricane & freak snowstorm. Nancy will get in touch with Parks dept & Reno. Brett had other observations are included as a separate document.

Brett also suggested that we have one of the blue signs on Route 495 advertising the trail.

Trail Website Committee – Theresa Mazzarelli

Adopt-A-Trail: in contract says there is a 1 year term, so need to follow up with some sponsors. Also, need to add section locations. This was done with the map, which will replace the textual descriptions.

Pat will talk to Sheldon about getting the mile markers done by Bee Lines on the new section of trail, so will give them a free sponsorship spot on the website.

Have Parking Locations on the map, but the Friendly's one is missing and will be added.

Jim has been working on the new form for sponsors and will put a link to it on the bottom of the sponsor page.

Facebook: 162 hits last week, highest ever. Has an audience of the 42,000.

Jim suggested having stories about the new trail adopters on the website.

Old Business

Trail Counts

Pat highlighted again that the Trail count dates are:

- Wed 5/16: From 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM, Noon to 2:00 PM, 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM.
- Sat 5/19: From 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

We are looking for volunteers to count the number of people on the trail for 2 hour time slots on these days at the following locations:

- Louisa Lake
- Fino Field
- Behind Prezo Restaurant
- Route 85 trailhead.

Members were asked to pass the word about looking for volunteers. People can use the general Trail email and phone contacts on the website to volunteer.

New Business

Motion was made and unanimously passed to spend up to \$300.00 for trail ending warning signs at the Senior Center spur.

Motion was made and unanimously passed to spend up to \$350.00 for a backpack blower, gas can, and hearing protection.

Motion was made and unanimously passed to spend up to \$500.00 for additional website development.

Motion was made and unanimously passed to spend up to \$1155.00 for the Cutrona memorial bench

Conclusion

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.