

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail

Minutes of the General Meeting October 2, 2012

- President Pat Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.
- There were 12 members and 7 guests present.
- After guest presentations, a motion was made and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of September meeting.

Guests:

Brian Dignazio, from Troop 18, with leader **Bob Dignazio**, presented his Eagle Scout project to build a kiosk at Hopkinton trail head. He will be using the Rte. 109 kiosk design with possible modifications to avoid weakening. He will also confer with Mike Nicholson of the Disabilities Commission to ensure a level of accessibility. He will need approvals, including an approval letter from the Friends. Dave Casinelli said that Mrs. Virginia Brenna may provide funding in memory of her husband. Brian had questions about project constraints and all were answered.

Thomas Hancox, from Troop 18, presented his Eagle Scout project for a speed bump/barrier construction on the Senior Center spur. Thomas met with Mike Nicholson of the Milford Disabilities Commission and with Town Engineer Mike Santoro. Both men are approving the project with the Friends sign-off. Thomas will work with Dave and Pat on the letter he will submit to Mr. Santoro. There was miscellaneous conversation about the project, including clear marking and signing, publicity and timing.

Mike Nicholson, from the Milford Commission for Disabilities presented thoughts on accessible bench design, signage, and placement. Benches will have backs, arm rests, and other features. The Commission is considering placement of accessible benches, at their expense, in cooperation with Friends and Parks Dept. He also presented accessible picnic table units for families with members in wheelchairs. He also distributed examples of signage warning about hazards and slopes. He also distributed a graphic depicting tactile plates which alert seeing impaired persons of a change in condition.

Milford Upper Charles Trail Committee – Reno DeLuzio:

Regarding the discussion about Adopt-a-Trail (see below), Reno highlighted that responsibilities have been agreed upon in the past, and the agreement should be used as a reference.

The Parks and Recreation Department will receive funding for a \$200,000 multi-use tractor.

Officers and Committee Reports:

President – Pat Rosenthal

Pat deferred to committee reports.

Vice President – David Cassinelli

No report.

Secretary – Margaret Myatt

No report – membership is steady, consistent at about 78

Treasurer – Tom Myatt

In Tom's absence, Margaret reported that there is no news since the last meeting.

Maintenance and Enhancements – Dave Cassinelli and Nancy Wojick

Dave recommended a leaf blower; an expense that had already allocated. A backpack version with eye protection will cost \$23 more than allocated.

Walter Lobisser wants to donate a bench in memory of his late wife, on the Hopkinton side, near the information placard.

The Ramirez family wants a bench near Wildcat Pond, but it will probably end up nearer to the trail edge.

Dave reached out to the Adopt-a-Trail sponsors about the upcoming clean-up. Nancy Wojick is concerned about the responsibilities of the Adopt-a-Trail sponsors. The agreement documentation may be too demanding and the Friends have not enforced allegiance.

With regard to the distribution of responsibilities between trail adopters, Friends, and Parks Dept., Nancy highlighted upcoming projects such as the clean-up, striping, leaf removal, etc. There was general discussion about maintenance issues.

Trail Website Committee – Theresa Mazzarelli

Theresa introduced Bill Kavanaugh, MHS Class of '57 and of the Army Corps of Engineers. Theresa is hoping that he will help the Friends with maintenance issues.

She sent Greg, the webmaster, the Google Analytic information and she has not heard back. She is concerned about how we can keep the website up-to-date. There was general agreement that the website will be used as archival material, and the Facebook presence will be used for current stories and dynamic content.

Old Business:

New Business:

Reno made a motion to increase the allocation for the new leaf blower to up to \$400 Reno. Nancy seconded. Passed unanimously.

Nancy moved to spend up to \$300 for new signs . Ed Eck seconded Passed unanimously.

Walden Woods wants to join the Adopt-a-Trail program. Its section will be from the “It’s a Great Thing” bench to Rte. 85. Nancy moved to accept, Margaret second it. Passed unanimously.

Conclusion:

Next meeting is Tuesday, December 4th.

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm.