

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail

Minutes of the General Meeting May 7, 2013

- President Pat Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
- 14 members and 1 non-member were present.

Guest speakers:

Police officers John Sanchioni and Ed Varteresian updated the Friends on police presence on the trail. In general, the police department is actively patrolling the trail and regularly responding to calls including graffiti concerns and an elderly gentleman falling off his bicycle. They recommend that people report suspicious activity and routinely stay to the right when walking or biking

There was general discussion about whether warning lights were working on the major roadway crossings - Rte. 85, Dilla St., and Beaver Street.

A trail user wrote of horses on the trail. The trail by-laws do not allow horses and that information should be disseminated.

Michelle Dafonte provided an update on a student mural project discussed with the Friends last year. Michelle works for both the hospital and Blackstone Valley Technical High School. She discussed the Painting and Design projects of BVT. Students in that program want to beautify fence panels along the Senior Center spur with art murals. Koopman's Hardware store is helping as advisor and has donated \$1,600 in materials. Michelle would like to move forward with the project this month with target dates of May 15 & May 18th. There was general discussion about graffiti, with members expressing concerns on the potential for the students' artwork to be defaced once completed, maintenance responsibility after completion along with support for the project as an excellent learning opportunity for the students to benefit their community. Michelle suggested a modified approach – one image every 5 fence panels.

MOTION: Tom Myatt made a motion to recommend that BVT move forward with project. Dave Cassinelli seconded for unanimous approval. BVT is planning to publicize the project with Milford Cable TV, etc

Theresa Mazzarelli and Bill Kavanaugh presented an idea for Friends involvement with Milford Cable TV – ~~XXXX~~ of Milford Cable TV was to be a guest speaker but he was not present. Theresa has met with Milford cable to arrange a televised interview focusing on the Friends. There was discussion about whether the Friends should become a member of the station and whether they should host a show. Ed Eck & Mike Morrison are considering helping with this cable TV project.

Theresa Mazzarelli, Website – In general, the website and the Facebook presence are doing great! The adopt-a-trail paperwork will be updated.

MOTION: Reno Deluzio motioned spend an additional \$300 for website development. Tom Myatt seconded, passed unanimously.

Reno Deluzio, Trail Committee – There was been no activity with the missing link. Work on the Milford to Holliston connection is underway. And there is a new connection to Walden

Woods. If the Walden Woods developer does not complete the missing link, he will be obligated to pay the trail committee \$975,000.

President, Pat Rosenthal – April Minutes will be available for review and acceptance next meeting. She commented on the wonderful work of eagle scout Thomas Hancox, and the successful trail clean-up.

There has been a memorial bench inquiry from Donna Ruscutti. There was general discussion about whether there are spaces left for benches. Dave Cassinelli will identify remaining spots and they will be listed on the website. Once the remaining spaces are filled, the memorial bench program will end.

The annual trail count project is short of volunteers and may reduce from four observation spots to less. Pat stated that we need 50 volunteers and we are very short of that number.

Dave Cassinelli, Vice President – the adopt-a-trail application and agreement have been simplified & will be updated on the website.

Tom Myatt, Treasurer – Tom distributed the treasurer report. \$4400 has been collected, we spent \$1,700. The primary income is from website sponsorship, membership and gifts, with \$1,200 from each. We have \$17,000 in bank with open spending of \$2,500 allocated against existing motions

Margaret Myatt, Secretary - no particular activity. We have 68 members.

Maintenance and Enhancements, Dave Cassinelli – There was a great turn out for the spring clean-up with approx 50 volunteers including representation from the adopt a trail groups. The CVS area was in especially bad shape believed to be as a result of open, uncovered dumpsters in that area. Reno Deluzio & Bill Kavanaugh will plan a follow up meeting with Mike Bresciani on the erosion/drainage proposals presented in December.

Other discussion

Brett Staupe requested mission statement on letterhead for soliciting an employer donation (Golub Corp). Margaret will provide. Brett also mentioned that someone had cut the locks on one of the gates.

Theresa is updating the wish list on the website. Everybody was asked to review the list as posted on the website and we will discuss next meeting.

MOTION: Tom motioned for adjournment, Sheldon Moniz seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 4, 2013, 7:00 pm.