

MINUTES

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail

Minutes for the Open Monthly Meeting - September 3, 2013

The meeting was called to order by President Pat Rosenthal at 7:05pm

In attendance

14 members - 1 non member

Approval of Minutes

The minutes emailed August 21, 2013 for the August 6, 2013 meeting had one requested correction.

Laura Scirocco requested to add to the minutes that she has been a paying & long standing member of the Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail.

From previous month's Minutes: Laura Scirocco – raised awareness of the recent Milford / Foxwoods Casino host agreement announcement as a member of the NEMBA

(New England Mountain Bike Association) & a Milfordian. NEMBA owns 47 acres that would directly abut the proposed casino location. She is strongly advocating for various groups within the town to provide any & all mitigation ideas that can be included in the host agreement. Topic was deferred for follow up with Reno DeLuzio & the Milford Trail Committee after discussion & several ideas: lighting, security webcams, building trail extensions, environmental natural composting restroom facility, etc.

Motion: Pat moved to approve amendment to the meeting minutes, seconded, passed but not unanimous

Update presented by Reno Deluzio, Milford Trail Committee: Phase 3 has started, it's a reality! They had to reconfigure the elementary school playground and add security fences. All the major work is done in that section. They are making good progress. Some last minute issues with school but they have been taken care of. Erosion control was added on both sides to prevent erosion into wetlands. Work will continue into next year but contractor has been working hard..

Question: Having walked on the "missing link" before it was noticed that it was really mushy, have they been able to mitigate that issue?

Reno: Fill has been brought in to fix that issue. Plan is all well-defined.

Updates presented by Pat Rosenthal, President:

A few Friends members, Theresa Mazzarelli, Reno DeLuzio & Pat Rosenthal attended the Eagle Court of Honor for Thomas Hancox & Joseph Nunez. They reported that the ceremony was very nice. Prior to the ceremony, the Friends were asked for a letter of recommendation to put into the Eagle Scout's binders. During the ceremony they recognized Dave Cassinelli as an Eagle Scout Mentor and very kind words were said about Dave. A pin was accepted by Pat Rosenthal & will be given to Dave's son, Jacob.

Susan Tieuli-Gala: family is interested in a Granite Bench in the Fino Field Area perhaps by the Fino Field Hill. Pat referred her to the website to give her more info about the Granite Benches.

Dave Cassinelli Bench - Family and friends would like it to be at the hill down by Fino Field.

Pat hasn't made any commitments to either family, it is still up for discussion.

Pat provided updates on issues brought up from last month's meeting:

The Bench at Louisa Lake: How did the bench get there? Why weren't we notified? Park's Director, Mike Bresciani - response: Rick Villani, Town Administrator was the one who worked on the Eagle Scout Gazebo.

Also, at Louisa Lake, work has started on the fishing platform by Molinari Construction Co. We are requesting them to be more proactive about letting us know about these items and give us a heads up about any future projects.

Follow-up with Michele DaFonte - Blackstone Valley Tech on the continuation of the proposed projects. They do want to continue working on the fence. They are anxious to get started again. She reached out to the teacher, no definitive plans. She was wondering if we had any suggestions regarding the mural. Perhaps something recognizing Dave and/ or something of a historical nature? 5-10 panels along that stretch. Bench Projects: Stories behind the benches and capturing that for our history. Michele has asked for a list of the individuals/families that should be included in the project.

Update presented by Tom Myatt, Treasurer: Passed along the latest statement/ Treasurer Report: for 01/2013 - 08/2013.

We have had an income \$5600 and have spent about \$3400 which leaves us with balance of \$17,500 in the bank.

We have made motions for \$4400 spending, leaving us with about \$13,100.00.

We have received donations towards Dave's bench in the amount of \$1230.00 this far.

Margaret is sending out thank you notification and tax information to the contributors.

Secretary Update: Membership list: 66 members

Board of Directors officer nominations & elections

We had the election for our Board of Directors officer positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary

Tom Myatt nominated for Treasurer, seconded, elected unanimously by members

Katie Siciak nominated for Secretary, seconded, elected unanimously by members

Pat Rosenthal nominated for President, seconded, elected unanimously by members

Theresa Mazzarelli nominated for Vice President, seconded, elected unanimously by members

Nancy Wojcik volunteered to be Chairman of the M&E committee.

Updates from the Social Networking Committee:

Mike Morrison: Working with Milford TV has been a little bit slow. Scheduling has been difficult. We are trying to get more footage of the trail for an episode. We do not need a membership at Milford TV because Production will be done by Milford TV. We will be going out to the trail with Liz & Katie to get footage around Louisa Lake Area. We will also be putting together a promo for the TV program. We are interested in putting together a promo for fall trail cleanup also.

Theresa Mazzarelli: Proposed a new front page for the website. Photos/stories can all change periodically and old stories will be archived. She requested opinions about the story about Dave, should it be on the front page or on the bench page? It was agreed to put on the front page, temporarily. It was mentioned that now the website is easier to change and potentially cheaper to update.

Theresa is also recommending a change to the maps indicating "You are here" and maybe simplifying the map. Nancy Wojcik offered to help make a change to the map. Putting a temporary sticker on the maps indicating "You are here" until a new map is done.

She mentioned the QR Codes that have been added to the kiosks. One of the codes offers a unique count for the Milford trail map to reflect how many individuals are using the codes. Add that we are a 501 (3) nonprofit and requesting donations for keeping the trail clean and becoming members.

Comments about QR Codes: Pat Rosenthal, President: We don't want to just put something on the Kiosk to get donations but we want to put something more about the Friends and about whom we are and what we do.

The wish list was updated on website.

The 2013 trail count was updated to the website.

Other updates and requests:

Adopt-a-Trail: We need a volunteer to help with the adopt-a-trail program. We would like to reach out to adopters for the fall cleanup. We need to ask the adopters to get more involved and also provide better communication to the adopters. Inform the adopters of the change in the person they are going to be communicating with. Dick Flooks volunteered to help with this effort.

Granite Benches: We currently have 22 granite benches.

There has been a discussion about the Memorial Bench Map. Do we put the Donegan bench on the memorial bench map even though it wasn't done with the Friends? Do we add a distinction between the memorial benches versus other benches? It was proposed that the map should be a reference to those that want to see the Granite Benches but also for those who want to know where they will be able to sit and take a break along the trail. If that is what the map should be for then it was agreed that the Donegan bench should be reflected with a distinction on the map to reflect those that are part of the Friends' memorial bench program.

Update from the M&E Committee: - Nancy has been sending pictures of graffiti in order to have it addressed but it doesn't appear anything has been done.

Fall Clean Up & Event Planning: Rob & Liz Davis sent Pat a proposal for the Fall Clean Up. They would like to do something more for it and make it an even bigger event. They would like to make it a festive, fun time for families, handing out trail information. Board can compile information they want handed out such as a history of trail, trail expansion etc. Everyone thinks it is a great idea. It was proposed that the trail cleanup be on October 26, 2013 from 9am to noon with a rain date of November 2nd.

Old Business:

Ricciuti bench - the Patriots and Red Sox trademark logos needed approval. Her daughter has gotten someone from Red Sox to authorize the trademark. She needs to get in touch with the engraver. Tom will talk to Donna and the mason regarding the bench.

New Business:

Inventory List: Who has what? Should we have a central location to contain the entire inventory or do we keep a list of who has what? It was recommended to keep individual items with the people that use them.

Bags for Dog stations - more advanced notification is needed from Parks dept when supplies are running low to ensure we always have refills available.

Motion: Tom moved to approve funding for the engravings for Dave's bench, seconded, passed unanimously

Reno Deluzio: He is frustrated with maintenance issue with the trail, there are schedule conflicts, and there is no trail management process in place. He is proposing that the Parks department be more proactive and develop a trail management process that identifies issues and what is going to be done to fix these issues.

Motion: Pat moved to support Reno's proposal, seconded, and passed unanimously

Pat proposed moon walks: Thursday, September 19th corn moon Saturday, October 18th harvest moon

Next Meeting

Tues, Oct 1, 2013 at Milford Senior Center, beginning at 7pm.

Motion to adjourn was made at 9:15pm and was passed unanimously.