

Minutes

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail

Minutes for the Open Monthly Meeting – January 6, 2015

President Pat Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm

In Attendance:

Members - 9 (Pat Rosenthal, Mike Morrison, Katie Siciak, Tom Myatt, Nancy Wojick, Mark Tolpin, Reno DeLuzio, Denise Simoneau, Dick Flooks)

Non-members – 2 (who joined at the end of the meeting!) Gary Bonnetti & Jeff Howard

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Motion to approve meeting minutes, seconded, passed unanimously. Mark Tolpin asked to be added to email list.

Reno Deluzio, Trail Committee Chair: There is a “shopping list” of items that the Trail committee is looking to work on. He has a meeting set up to discuss trail fixes such as better handicap access to the existing granite, erosion area resolution, etc. The hope is to have all the items resolved during this year.

Pat Rosenthal, President: The ribbon-cutting was a success.

- Raffle Winners:
 - Bike Helmets(Milford Bike) – Julia DeLuzio, Laura Daniels, Holliston
 - Julie’s Barkery – Lizi Schuster, Hopedale
 - Garden Restaurant Gift Certs – Joan Richard, Elaine Cappuziello
 - Carnivores gift cert – Sue Johnson
 - Valvoline gift cert – Vonnie Rees
 - Hannaford gift cert – Chris & Veronica Wilson, Hopedale
 - Friends T-shirts – Sue Johnson, Christine Early, Arianne Gentiella (not delivered, non-working tel)
 - PlanetAid Bikes & Helmet Winners –
 - 3 girls bikes: Gary Sanborn, Julia DeLuzio , Deb Cistoldi
 - 3 boys bikes: Susan Cornella, Alicia Franzosa, S.C (initials only)
 - Helmet: Caitlyn Taft

Two of the raffle winners have since become Friends members!

Thank you letters have been sent out for the donations that were made for the ribbon-cutting including

- Milford Police Dept – Sgt Sanchioni, Lt James Falvey; Milford Auxiliary – Scott Ellis, Justin Kuras
- Italian Vets Post 40 – Tim McDonough, Eric Ruscitti
- Milford Bike, Julie’s Barkery, Garden Restaurant, Carnivores, Hannaford, Valvoline, Planet Aid
- Wegmans-water, Dunkin Donuts-coffee & munchkins, Vineyard Church-kids activities booth

Since the ribbon-cutting, there has been some interest in the Adopt a Trail program (AATP) from Zain Ridge Condo Assn, Ryan Morganelli, Shades of Green landscaping & Kavi Siegal, an individual offering the use of power tools & assisting if others would also like to help form a group to adopt section 14.

Post Fall Cleanup (Oct): We received a drone video from Consigli Construction during their cleanup which is available on our website. Planet Aid sent along some Halloween cleanup photos. After the cleanup, one of the leaf blowers was returned with a guidebolt piece missing which has been ordered from StateLine in Bellingham, cost is about \$3.50.

Milford Jr Womens Club had contacted the Friends potential participation in the Gala of trees fundraiser event held in December. Unfortunately, this got overlooked after the ribbon cutting and during the holidays as the Friends did not meet during Nov or Dec.

Planning for the 3rd Annual Trail Forum of the 5 Upper Charles Trail towns should begin in January for a march forum. Pat will reach out to the other towns to initiate that discussion.

Tom Myatt, Treasurer: There was a total of \$9,278.00 in income and \$9,439.99 in expenses for the year 2014. There is currently \$3755.61 in committed funds for open expenditures.

Tom suggested that at the next meeting, members propose ideas to apply~ \$10,000 of the available funds towards items on the Trail Committee Wish List or other ideas for trail enhancements.

Mike Morrison, Vice President: We are up to 7 Trail Talk episodes however episode 5 has not been uploaded yet on the YouTube channel. The hand devices to track the pedestrian crossing lights are not working.

Katie Siciak, Secretary/ Social Media & Website: The e-newsletter subscribers remain at 256. Facebook likes are at almost 450. Friends membership continues with ~68 current members.

The website continues to get good monthly traffic, even through the colder months that see less traffic on the trails.

Nov 2014 Summary				
	Page Loads	Unique Visits	First Time Visits	Returning Visits
Total	439	349	314	35
Average	15	12	10	1

Dec 2014 Summary				
	Page Loads	Unique Visits	First Time Visits	Returning Visits
Total	280	230	200	30
Average	9	7	6	1

M&E Committee: The crossing on 109, the pavement is very badly degraded. Decisions are being made about who is responsible for taking care of it (local or state highway dept)

The Milford Highway dept sand blaster has been fixed & will be used to remove graffiti on the trail pavement. For any maintenance issues or complaints for the trail, all correspondence should be forwarded to Nancy who will work with the proper agencies. As a reminder, photos of graffiti are submitted to the police for potential restitution &/or prosecution. Police have found the culprit of one of the gang sign graffiti that has shown up on the trail in addition to other areas.

Trash pick up and refilling the dog cleanup stations has been lacking during Nov & early Dec. Nancy was told that people were out, sick, vacation but the last month has been better with pickup.

Pat proposed annualizing the trail adoption process to coincide with the Friends website sponsorship renewals. It was also suggested that the group consider designating beginning & ending points for the adopter sections on the trail for greater clarity.

We have received an application from Jeff Howard, President of the Zain Ridge Condo Association to adopt section 16, the section closest to the Holliston section & adjacent to Zain Ridge Circle. Jeff reports that the general opinion of the trail is very positive from the Zain Ridge Condo members.

Other inquiries from Kavi Siegel and Ryan Morganelli at Shades of Green Landscaping have been acknowledged & are awaiting further feedback.

Dick Flocks has agreed to help with the annual renewal of sponsors for the website. Katie will help draft emails/ Facebook posts to current & potential new sponsors.

It was proposed to hold a meet and greet for adopters and sponsors to acknowledge their contributions & involvement in the trail community efforts. This would also provide an opportunity for them to connect with each other and other businesses or organizations that may be considering ways to be more actively involved. Tentative month for the meet and greet is April.

Old Business:

Motion: Close all the open expenditure motions to start the year with clean slate, seconded, passed.

New Business:

Motion: To accept Zain Ridge Condo Association as a trail adoptee, seconded, passed unanimously.

Motion: To open new motions for expenditures, seconded, approved.

Proposed 2015 Motions

#15-01 – Government filing fees – \$100.00

#15-02 – Paypal fees - \$50.00

#15-03 – Administrative supplies - \$150.00

#15-04 – Trail decals for members - \$200.00

#15-05 – Doggie Bags - \$1000.00

#15-06 – Trail maintenance - \$1000.00

#15-07 – Website development & hosting - \$2000.00

#15-08 – Event expenses - \$1000.00

#15-09 – Directors and Officers Insurance - \$1100.00

Next meeting will be Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Motion to adjourn at 8:21pm.