

Minutes

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail

Minutes for the Open Monthly Meeting – August 4, 2015

President Pat Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm

In Attendance:

Members - Katie Siciak, Mike Morrison, Tom Myatt, Pat Rosenthal, Reno DeLuzio, Mark Tolpin, Nancy Wojick, Bill Kavanaugh, Denise Simoneau, Gary Bonetti, Julie Morales, Guru Simran Kaur Khalsa-Bob

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Motion to approve meeting minutes, seconded, passed unanimously.

Updates presented by Reno Deluzio:

- The highway department has been doing some remedial work as previously noted in the June minutes & Reno will continue to monitor the progress.
- There have been boulder placements to prevent trail users from moving off the trail & contributing to the erosion along some slopes. The tree warden has made some vegetative planting recommendations which are under review.
- Bill Kavanaugh mentioned that there are frost heaves that have started to crack. Reno mentioned that they have agreed to wait until the pavement gets really bad before they address them.
- It was suggested that the identified list of maintenance / remedial work items be published on the website.

Updates presented by Pat Rosenthal, President:

- One of our trail ambassadors, Bob Nargi, passed away recently. He was an avid trail walker and supporter. \$1250 has been donated to date to the Friends. The family has requested a memorial bench.
- Joel Arbeitman from the Ashland trail group requested a copy of the trail archway logo for use in Ashland's trail brochure
- Emma Ryan, candidate for Girl Scout Gold project enquired about building a kiosk. An invitation was extended to share or present at Friends meeting – awaiting response.

Update presented by Mike Morrison, Vice President:

- He is scheduling new episodes with Milford TV. Trying to coordinate a time with the Holliston people to rerecord due to the audio not being usable with the initial recording.
- He has sent 4 separate emails to Cross Alert systems to gather the information but has not heard back yet.
- Deb Donaldson reached out about volunteer opportunities for cleanups of the trail. We reopened the discussion of having mini cleanups during the year versus having two scheduled larger cleanups. There are portions of the trail that do not have adopters that need to be cleaned. We don't want to take away the accountability of the adopters to clean their portions of the trail by having others clean up their areas at other times.
- Action: Mike will reach back out to Deb about getting a small cleanup group organized.

Update presented by Tom Myatt, Treasurer: Total Income: \$4,961.19, Total Expenses: \$2,037.56, Net Change: \$2,923.62, Closing Balance: \$21,140.50, Opening Spending Authorizations: \$16,362.44, Uncommitted Funds: \$4,778.06

Update presented by Katie Siciak, Secretary/ Social Media & Website:

- Only a few inquiries in the past month. For a short period, the trail@milfordtrail.org email was being redirected to Margaret Myatt's email in error. The issue appears to have been resolved.
- The website has seen an increase in web traffic with 1,250 page loads, 1,024 unique loads, 933 first time visits, and 91 returning visits.

M&E Committee (Nancy Wojick/ Pat Rosenthal): Sheldon Moniz is actively working on scheduling Bee Lines to repaint the current faded trail & mileage markings along with adding new mileage markings for the entire trail (Hopkinton, Holliston & last year's completed sections).

Old Business:

- Officer elections will be held in September. Nominations for the four officer positions are currently in progress. Officers may be re-elected to a 2 year term. All members are eligible to vote or to be considered for a leadership position. Contact Pat Rosenthal with any questions or to submit nominations.
- Missing handicapped bench from phase 3 has not been found
- Reno & Pat reached out to Eastland Partners for a \$5,000 donation that would be support specific improvements along the trail: engineering & legal fees for Rte 85 easement, repair or replacement of deteriorating wooden stairway from Milford Catholic Elementary School to trail & playground, handicapped accessibility improvements, elimination of encroaching invasive plant species.
- Margaret Myatt will provide an update on the Milford Commission on Disability at the next meeting

New Business:

- There is currently a moratorium on the granite bench project but with the new section of the trail, we discussed the possibility of reopening the project. There are currently 4 families on a waiting list for benches. With Bob Nargi's passing, the family has requested the possibility of putting a bench along the area of the trail that he walked frequently.
- Action: Pat to reach out to the families on the bench waiting list to determine their interest in purchasing a memorial bench.
- Action: Reach out to Harold Rhodes, MCOB Chair on handicapped accessibility plans relative to bench locations
- Possible bench locations identified, pending further investigation & coordination with MCOB planning are:
 - Rte 85 section near gate & crossing lights
 - Hopkinton Trail Head (center of turn around loop)
 - Zain Ridge turn around loop (near Holliston Trailhead)
 - Louisa Lake overlook section

Motion: To lift the moratorium for up to 4 granite benches and reinstitute the moratorium afterwards, seconded, passed unanimously.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, September 1, 2015

Motion to adjourn at 8:28pm.