

## Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail

Minutes for the Open Monthly Meeting – 01/03/17

President Mike Morrison called to order at 7:03 pm

### In Attendance

Members: Mike Morrison, Julie Rosenthal Morales, Julianne Bonvino, Tom Myatt, Margaret Myatt, Bill Kavanaugh, Guru Simran Kaur Khalsa-Bob, Dick Flooks, Nancy Wojick, Gary Bonetti, Pat Rosenthal, Catherine Guido, Denise Simoneau, Dave Wilkie, Rita Wilkie, Phillip Morales, William Sanborn

Non-members: Thomas Zimmerman, Amanuel Zimmerman

### Approval of Minutes

**Motion:** Mike moved to approve the minutes of November meeting, Nancy seconded, passed unanimously.

### Updates presented by Mike Morrison, President

- Mike introduced Amanuel Zimmerman, a Life Scout from Troop 4, who is pursuing the rank of Eagle Scout. One requirement is to complete a service project that benefits an organization other than the scouts. The first step of this process is to propose this project to the Friends, who would be the beneficiaries of the project. He is looking for approval to do 3 things for the Trail in Milford. The first part of the project is to have people learn more about the history that the trail goes through and around. The second part of the proposal is to raise awareness of the trail and the nature around it. For the last part of the proposal, he wants to increase the public's usage of this trail. Nancy noted that the first part has been one of our wish list items. Margaret noted the Commission on Disabilities could work with him, and possibly create an audio version in addition to a guidebook. Once he gets initial approval to proceed with this project, he will create a formal proposal for us prior to implementation. If we approve it, he will get volunteers who will receive service hours to complete the project. There will be no cost to the Friends. Tom Zimmerman asked if he could get a volunteer or two to assist Amanuel go through the different vulnerabilities of the trail such as vandalism, maintenance issues, and any Parks Department issues. This should be done prior to going through the formal proposal process. Margaret and Pat offered to assist as a starting point. Scouts would design a patch that would incorporate our logo if we allow it and we or they could sell them and make \$1 each profit. Tom Myatt noted that education is in our charter, so we wouldn't need to profit on this, and could possibly donate patches. All details will be incorporated into the final proposal. **Motion:** Tom Myatt moved that Friends approve this initial concept and invite Amanuel back to present the final proposal, Nancy seconded, passed unanimously.
- President's report: The new website is up and running and the PayPal account is linked to it. Mike will fix the donation page to add in a comment field so people can add in "in memory of", etc.
- Mike hasn't heard back from Mike Shain regarding a bench near Italian Vets.
- Received invoice for winter sled – matched motion from November meeting. Bill Sanborn will provide more details in his update later in the meeting.

### Updates presented by Julie Rosenthal-Morales, Vice President

- No updates

### Update from Tom Myatt, Treasurer

- Tom presented the year-end report. We are ending the year \$1600 higher than last year. Tom will do a 5-year history at the next meeting.
- Julianne questioned the difference between a sponsorship and donation. Donations are tax deductible and sponsorships receive an ad in exchange for their donation and are not tax deductible. Sponsorship forms will need to be revised so that it does not reflect the tax deductible wording.

- December Treasurer Report:

Total Income: \$7,696.49

Total Expense: \$6,127.35

Closing Balance: \$20,752.58

Open Spending Authorizations: \$11,443.39

Uncommitted Available Funds: \$9,309.19

Open Spending Authorizations:

    Authorized: \$14,800.00

    Expended: \$3,356.61

    Remaining: \$11,443.39

**Update presented by Julianne Bonvino, Secretary**

- 65 members, which is 4 less than last year but donation amounts are higher.

**Updates:**

- Winter Use Committee – Bill Sanborn has secured a proposal of \$1070 for a sled. There is a 30-day lead time, order not placed yet. Challenge is we don't have a snowmobile to pull this. He has drafted a letter to send to friends of the trail first to find someone to drive or loan it out to us. It is a 200 pound sled and there are also accessories that can be purchased that weren't included in the proposal. Dave Wilkie asked if a quad (4-wheeler) could be used but Bill wasn't sure if a quad would work if the snow is too deep. Questions about liability came up. Tom thinks we should get a letter from the town saying they would cover us if something were to happen. We need to set guidelines for snowmobile driver. **Action:** Pat will reach out to Rails to Trails, etc. to see if anyone else has done this and how they've done it. There is no defined parameter yet as to what area this will be in. Dave Wilkie offered to keep snowmobile on his property which is on the trail near Hopkinton line. **Action:** Mike will contact Jerry Moody and Mike Bresciani on personal injury, liability, etc. We will hold off on sending out letter looking for volunteers until we get more info. Bill will follow up with the sled company to see if they know of other trails that have used this.
- Trail Benches: Pat noted that the Taylor and Nargi benches were installed on Louisa Lake stretch around curve and before Shadowbrook just before Christmas. The Taylor family is very happy and wants to make a follow up donation. Pat will work with Mike Shain on his bench near the Italian Vets. As far as other families on waitlist, the last she heard from Trotta family was in October. They haven't responded regarding the location. Nancy asked if the moratorium should be reinstated at the Louisa Lake area (except for handicapped bench). Pat agreed. Nancy suggested a good place for new benches would be on the Hopkinton end.
- Sponsorship update: Catherine Guido updated the group. Dick Flocks has been great at tracking people down and collecting checks. She has compared new website to current list, and there are 10 sponsors on website that she needs to confirm if they have paid, and 6 that have paid or are pro bono but are not listed on the website. **Action:** Mike will make the updates on the website. **Action:** Catherine will follow up with Tom on some payments and then forward information to Mike to update the website. Dick will stop by Planet Aid to follow up on their status this week.
- Maintenance and Enhancements – Nancy Wojick updated the group. There are crooked signs on Main Street and stop sign by 85. There are a few cracks in the pavement in different locations. Logo decals on road crossing signs are faded and said to be \$1500 each to update. **Action:** Nancy will follow up with Scott Crisafulli on pricing and maybe we could pay some of it. Tom said if it's a safety issue, the town should be paying for it.

**New Business**

- Bill Kavanaugh got favorable response from Bill Buckley regarding his proposed Louisa Lake clean up. Bill B sent an email to Mr. Villani and will get to Scott Crisafulli and Mike Bresciani to do work. Budget would be \$12,000.

- Bill K has proposal for new memberships: make a minimum of 3 signs asking to share your ideas and meeting info. Nancy and Tom noted that we have too many signs on the trail, maybe put them in the kiosks. **Motion:** Tom moved to have 3 signs purchased and installed in the kiosks. Nancy seconded, all in favor, passed unanimously.
- Pat discussed the Greater Milford Community Health Network Area (CHNA 6). They give out grants to help improve health within the community. There is a meeting January 6<sup>th</sup> from 10-11 am at Milford Hospital to network and find an organization to possibly partner with to get a grant to promote health and education. The follow up meeting is January 13<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Center. Grant proposals are due February 16<sup>th</sup>, and grants are awarded March 31. We would need an idea first before we apply for a grant. Denise Simoneau will attend the meeting on Friday to get more information.

**Old Business:**

- “Did you know” ideas need to be submitted for FB page
- Dick Flooks talked with Sgt Sanchioni. He talked with detectives tonight and the incident is still under further investigation.

Next Meeting is **Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>** at the Milford Senior Center.

Mike made a motion to adjourn at 9:01 pm, Tom seconded, passed unanimously.