

Minutes

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail

Minutes for the Open Monthly Meeting – February 7, 2017

President Mike Morrison called to order at 7:02 pm

In Attendance

Members: Mike Morrison, Julie Rosenthal Morales, Julianne Bonvino, Tom Myatt, Margaret Myatt, Guru Simran Kaur Khalsa-Bob, Pat Rosenthal, Reno DeLuzio, Bill Kavanaugh, Dick Flooks, Denise Simoneau

Non-members: Demetra Edwards, Harold Rhodes

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mike moved to approve the minutes of January meeting. Tom proposed a one word amendment be made. Tom motioned once change is made, minutes approved. Pat seconded, all in favor, passed unanimously

Updates presented by Mike Morrison, President

- Mike spoke with Harold Rhodes about status of accessibility. Scott Crisafulli is very busy and Harold is pursuing a contractor to do the work which will add to the cost but will not exceed what Friends have agreed to.
- Nancy Wojick unable to attend but gave her update to Mike. The crooked signs were fixed but now crooked again. Scott will follow up. Regarding the signs Bill Kavanaugh proposed be put in kiosks at last meeting, Nancy will pick them up and they will be ready for Spring. The lights at 85 and Dilla are out and info has been passed onto Police Department. Reno asked if there is a published list of what is in pipeline for maintenance issues. Reno asked about cracked pavement and restriping the roadway, as many are fading. We need to know what the issues are and if anyone is following up. Problems should be reported and passed onto Mike Bruschini and he will decide who will correct issues. These issues should be available for all to see at every meeting to review and check off what has been done. **ACTION:** Mike will get a list from Nancy. If she doesn't have one, someone should create one.
- Mike emailed Town Counsel on snow usage liability, and using a snowmobile and sled on the trail. Town insurance would not cover Friends or operator so we would have to cover it. We will have to table for next meeting as Bill and Jerry aren't in attendance. Tom commented that it may not be advisable to have the sled this year, we still need more snowmobile info, liability info, etc. Money is allocated for the sled but we shouldn't go buy the sled unless there is a vote. This is understood and we have received a quote and there is no intention of buying it until we answer the many open issues.

Updates presented by Julie Rosenthal-Morales, Vice President

- Nothing to report

Update from Tom Myatt, Treasurer

- January Treasurer Report:

Total Income: \$720.90

Total Expense: \$28.14

Closing Balance: \$21,445.34

Open Spending Authorizations: \$11,415.25

Uncommitted Available Funds: \$10,030.09

Open Spending Authorizations:

Authorized: \$14,800.00

Expended: \$ 3,384.75

Remaining: \$11,415.25

Update presented by Julianne Bonvino, Secretary

- Two new members in January. Pat suggested we welcome new members in the minutes. **ACTION:** Julianne will follow up with new members asking permission to use their name in our minutes.
- The April meeting falls on town election day. **ACTION:** Tom will check availability of a room at the Library instead of Senior Center, since the Senior Center is a polling location.

- Julianne asked for volunteers to take minutes of the April 4th meeting, as she will be on vacation. Margaret will if she is in town, and Pat offered as a backup. Julianne will provide the meeting template prior to April 4.

Updates:

- Harold Rhodes gave an update on the disability accessibility project. Scott is really busy and while he hoped to get to it at end of summer/early fall, issues a Godfrey Brook had taken over. Scott and Harold walked the entire trail and Scott said the civil engineering plan is perfect but he couldn't get to it due to Godfrey Brook project. There is a big EPA regulation and the town is responsible for rain water runoff/potassium. Scott suggested Harold bring in a contractor which would be under Scott's supervision to do installing of tactile plates and signs (which Scott has), and pad and bench which will come out of the budget. Everything will be under the \$8000 budget from Friends, but in the unlikely case it goes over, the Commission of Disability has set aside funds for this. Scott said this has to be done in conjunction with other trail activities, i.e. mowing on sides, erosion control. Bill noted that Scott has to do work on the dam and he can do the invasive brush removal but it will take time. Bill suggested they do a little at a time around the dam work. There is an erosion issue near pad and bench area, but a lot of work needs to be done before concrete is put down. Harold will come back with an estimate for the contractor before we move forward. Tom said as long as we are going along with the original proposal, it should be fine. He recently spent \$1000 so there is \$6000 remaining. The Smart App for audio along the trail has been completed. It works with GPS on the trail. Thanks to Demetra and Margaret for their work on this. Margaret coordinated the script. Everyone should be pleased with the software. Harold will keep us up to date on this project. Tom asked if it's possible that audio is available prior to trail improvements. Harold can get a copy of the software if we want to go out to the trail and try it. Bill asked where tactile plates will be. They will be any place where there is an intersection of concrete. It keeps them in a straight line. Pat asked where the bench will be located. It will be near the mile and quarter marker, on flat piece of open grass. It is near Taylor bench but doesn't conflict. Julie asked if the software could be used by the deaf, providing text instead. Margaret said the script can be downloaded for deaf. Mike asked how we can advertise this and when. Margaret suggested Trail Talk and Town Crier. It will be promoted it once project is done.
- Reno discussed additional signage at Fino Field entrance and Veterans Memorial Drive. Signs have been ordered and should be in in a couple of weeks. If there are any additional signs to be made, Signs Plus is expensive and people who do highway signs, Atlantic Broom makes very close standard signs. He just purchased 13 signs for \$200. Bike route signs will be added to Veterans Memorial Drive and directional signs for intersection at Fino Field. Mike asked about signage near Big Y. The sign has been turned around facing store. Regarding Trail Remedial work: They have \$48,336 and have spent \$16,135 on bank stabilization, Phase III not built per design documents. There have been problems with stone dust shoulders, and 5000 feet needs replenishment. Got 2 bids from contractors, may need to get third. Tree Warden and Scott feel they need tree removal work. Pat asked about stone dust. When it was put down, it was supposed to harden but never seemed to. Stone dust mix is what Holliston uses but it works depending on the pit it comes from. When you put it down, it has to be put down right or it will blow away or wash away. It wasn't compacted correctly on our trail.
- Adoption update: nothing new
- Dick – sponsor update: Vineyard Church needs a sponsorship form. **ACTION:** Julianne will follow up with Catherine and mail a sponsorship form if necessary. Dick suggested also mailing one to Planet Fitness.

New Business

- Event planning: Spring cleanup and Celebrate Milford in May. Citizens of Milford is having their town cleanup day April 29. Friends can tag along and send out volunteers along the trail for cleanup if there are areas that adopters cannot get to. Reno noted lots of trash behind CVS all the time. **ACTION:** Pat will follow up with Paul Gunaratnam to check on that. Mike thinks maybe tree cleaning exposed lots of junk there. Pat will coordinate with adopters.
- Celebrate Milford: Not productive for Friends last year. Margaret motioned not to participate, Tom seconded. Passed unanimously. Mike suggested putting on Facebook directions on how to get to the event from trail.
- **Motion:** Tom made a motion to allocate \$1000 for doggie bags. The last order was \$468. Pat seconded, passed unanimously.
- On January 19 Pat went to meeting in Ashland to participate with trail committees. Reps from Hopkinton, Holliston and Ashland were there. A lot of trail work is underway. Hopkinton expects to have 6-12 month plan

for their section done shortly, and they have a new chairperson Jane Moran. Ashland is making headway. Holliston will be done soon. 50-75 people attended from all different towns to take look at broad scheme at pathways and vision of how they will be able to interconnect. Pat has maps of where trails will be, which also identifies gaps.

- Reno asked for a status of the website. Catherine was going to synchronize sponsors so no sponsor updates have been made yet. Mike added "in memory of" in the donations section. Reno asked if the green font could be changed, on the archives page. Reno also asked if photo gallery is going to be uploaded. **ACTION:** Mike will upload photos and change font colors as time permits.
- Reno was out painting on route 16 behind Interstate and he noticed car tracks on trail. The fence is gone and it looks like cars are cutting through their parking lot to get onto the trail. Reno will follow up on that issue. Mike asked if tree removal is done but Reno not sure. They dumped a lot of branches and trunks by access gate on Venice Street.
- Rental fees for use of town buildings. **ACTION:** Mike will call Selectmen office to get more information. We would need to get billed in order to pay. We can meet at the Library as an alternative.
- Pat noted John Vernon passed away and the Friends were listed for donations. John is a former adopter.

Old Business:

- Dick Flocks – alleged attack still being investigated.

Next Meeting is **Tuesday, March 7th** at the Milford Senior Center.

Tom made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 pm, Reno seconded, passed unanimously.