

# Minutes

## Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail

Minutes for the Open Monthly Meeting – June 6, 2017

President Mike Morrison called to order at 7:03 pm

### In Attendance

Members: Mike Morrison, Tom Myatt, Julianne Bonvino, Bill Kavanaugh, Reno DeLuzio, Guru Khalsa-Bob, Nancy Wojick, Dick Flooks, William Sanborn, Denise Simoneau

Non-members: Michele Duffy, Boy Scouts Troop 2

### Approval of Minutes

**Motion:** Tom moved to approve the minutes of May meeting. Nancy seconded, all in favor, passed unanimously

### Updates presented by Mike Morrison, President

- Three applications for adoption, 1 Boy Scouts Troop 2 Milford, Lydia Doria from Evergreen Center, and a bike rental service.
- Mike met with Ben Demeo Milford Rotary club for Outdoor Day June 24. Sponsored and organized by rotary club to get people out and active. Mike met to exchange ideas about who to promote, what activities we could do. They want to post notices on kiosks when we get them and promote through Facebook page also.
- Compiled list of storage locations that Dick did all the legwork on to get quotes.
- Items added to maintenance log, reformatted it for easier reading.
- Emailed board on how to manage adopter sections when we are full. We had recent clean-up day and only half of the adopters came out to help. Mike emailed to solicit opinions about how to manage these adopters. One idea was if they don't participate for three clean-up days, then we open up that section to new adopters? Or do we add more sections, split up sections, etc.

### Update from Tom Myatt, Treasurer

- May Treasurer Report: Membership fees went up. On the expense side, largest additional expense was \$450 for Commission of Disabilities for consultant fee. Closing balance is \$300 less than last month. Uncommitted funds of \$9000.

Total Income: \$1,759.33

Total Expense: \$2,030.52

Closing Balance: \$20,481.39

Open Spending Authorizations: \$11,359.67

Uncommitted Available Funds: \$9,121.72

Open Spending Authorizations:

Authorized: \$16,182.00

Expended: \$4,822.33

Remaining: \$11,359.67

### Update presented by Julianne Bonvino, Secretary

- Nothing to report

**Updates:**

- Guest: Michele Duffy, Boy Scouts Troop 2 submitted application for adopting a section of the trail. We are currently filled up but discussed sharing section 5 with the Cub Scouts Pack 67. They are both sponsored by Sacred Heart. She spoke with Tom Zimmerman, he's ok with it. Friends don't have a formal process for sharing sections. Pat suggested that we review the application and take a vote but do we accept them as a co-adopter? Three hours of conservation work are required so they would work on the trail. **Motion:** Reno moved to grant co-sponsor of that particular section. Pat seconded, passed unanimously. There are 22 scouts in that Troop. Reno asked if that section doesn't accumulate enough hours, they could ask us for other projects. She also has Eagle Scouts that need projects, they are ages 12-18. Pat suggested the granite benches on phase 1 that have some erosion and we want to make them handicap accessible. Michele's son is interested in doing bat boxes along Louisa Lake area. Pat noted they already have them but there are other areas that need them. Nancy asked for their logo so she can have a new sign made with both logos on it. Mike had a question regarding the doggie bag stations. Could we do one as an Eagle Scout project? Not sure if that would meet the project requirements. Mike suggested we need another one near Beaver Street. Pat said there was another proposed project interest in displays regarding historical aspect of trestles. Nancy added that whatever the project is, it has to be something that doesn't have to be maintained by us. Vegetation would be a good project for the older scouts to work on. Lots of areas need trimming, i.e. Beaver Street crossing. Chemicals cannot be used because of water, etc. Have to use tools to trim back brush. Mike asked Michele to fill out the adoption form to make it official.
- Reno provided an update on status of flashing beacons. We've got two beacon problems, Cedar Street and Dilla Street. Options on how to correct: National Grid would have to install four utility poles to electrify which would be very costly. Next option is to cut down trees on Cedar and Dilla and put in higher wattage solar panels. That is what they are going to try. Reno authorized Mike Bresciani to give go ahead to tree guy. Reno meeting with electrician to go over scope of work, and hopefully he will get authorization by the end of the week to get the work started. Will cost Trail Committee about \$5000 to do the work.
- At the Milford Finance Committee's FY2018 budget meeting, the Parks Department requested two more people and the Highway Department also requested two. The Fin Comm cut Parks by one because the Woodland School will not need grounds maintenance this year. Part of the justification for additional personnel was the added workload to maintain the bike trail which resulted in some debate. At the conclusion of the debate a Fin Comm member suggested a special meeting to review trail maintenance. Reno subsequently contacted the Fin Comm chairman and indicated his support for the special meeting. The Fin Comm chairman agreed to set it up. However, Reno requested he hold off until he, in conjunction with the Highway Surveyor and the Park Commission, has a chance to prepare a comprehensive assessment of what is involved in trail maintenance for their review. The Fin Comm chairman agreed with this approach.
- Winter Use committee – Bill S. thinks we should remove the two budget items. Tom spoke with Karl Bright and he said would need lots more info to provide a quote. Ballpark figure could be \$1000-3000 insurance annually but we need to provide lots of detail to get a quote. Between that and letter from Jerry Moody regarding liability, it doesn't sound very feasible at this time. Two budget items were added last year, probably doesn't make sense to tie up those funds at this time. **Motion:** Bill made motion to rescind two line items, one for snow sled and other for gasoline to pull sled for total of \$1300 (#s 16-08 and 16-09), Reno seconded, passed unanimously.
- Adoptions: Potential new adopters are Lydia Doria from Evergreen and a bike rental company. Lydia didn't come to the meeting to discuss. Bike rental company looked a little shady. No other co-adoption opportunity right now. Pat suggested they be put on a waiting list. In the past we've had people express interest but then they drop off. Waiting list is good to keep them interested. Bill asked if anyone spot checks the adopter sections? Not really, just feedback from bikers, etc.

- Mike distributed the maintenance log. 27 items, 2 resolved. Nancy added some are ongoing. Nothing critical, signs keep getting knocked over, huge new graffiti mess on 495 overpass. Nancy is going to Sherwin Williams to get a recommendation of a paint that will cover it. Dick asked if there is a paint that has a wax in it so it can't be painted over. Police looked at it. Gary Sanborn and Nancy will paint. Nancy more concerned with striping and bumped pavement. Reno measured pavement behind Water Company and Benjamin Moore and they are caused by root encroachment. 300 feet out of 2.7 miles that needs to be attended to. #23 faded bike route sign: Reno will follow up on signs with Highway Department. Nancy noted empty bird house poles also. Denise asked about #3 – No fence? It allows easy access for vehicles to get on the trail. Pat suggested if there is an issue with people dumping there, we write a letter to Board of Health. Police have been out on the trail frequently trying to catch someone dumping there. Reno will look into putting steel cable across. The Friends could offer to pay for the cable to block vehicles from getting thru.
- Unfinished business: Central storage for friends: Five options in immediate area. Hopedale Storage offered a computer room. They did not express a time limit for their storage room. We could use a portion of it free for 6 months. Cubesmart \$24 one time admin fee, \$12 a month for insurance. They did have a time limit of 6 months. Reno suggested asking the Youth Center if they have room for our storage. Pat will reach out to Jennifer Ward at Youth Center. **Action:** Dick will check back with Buma with a list of what we have and see if we can use them. We are ruling out Eagle Leasing and Graham – too expensive. Fino Field option never materialized. Nancy will talk to Mike B again about space at Fino Field. **Action:** Nancy will compile a list of the Friends' materials in her possession and send to Dick. Paint and gasoline may be a concern.

#### **New Business:**

- **Motion:** Tom moved that we close 15-04, 15-06, 15-07, 15-08, 15-10, 16-01, 16-02, and 16-03 leaving 15-12, Reno seconded, passed unanimously.
- **Motion:** Tom moved to allocate \$500 for general trail improvements, Reno seconded, passed unanimously..
- **Motion:** Tom moved to allocate \$500 for website development and hosting (17-04), Reno seconded, passed unanimously.
- **Motion:** Tom moved to allocate \$100 for government fees (17-05), Pat seconded, passed unanimously.
- **Motion:** Tom moved to allocate \$50 Paypal fees (17-06), Pat seconded, passed unanimously.
- **Motion:** Tom moved to allocate \$100 for Admin expenses (17-07), Pat seconded, passed unanimously.

This will free up a lot of the committed funds and will increase uncommitted funds. We've spent \$2500 out of \$8000 so far on Disabilities commission. We should invite Harold to come to a meeting to give us an update of where they are at with the project.

- Peeling paint along senior center fence – Suggest scouts repaint? We supply paint and brushes.
- Outdoor Day for 9-3 June 24<sup>th</sup>. If we have a table, signage needs to be updated. What do we put on the table? Denise can cover morning, Mike mid-day, Julianne 1-3. Pat has table and posters that will need to be picked up prior to the 24<sup>th</sup>.
- **Motion:** Tom moved to skip July meeting, Nancy seconded, passed unanimously.

- Pat brought up that board elections are coming up in September...we need to start thinking about it.

Next Meeting is Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at the Senior Center.

Motion to adjourn at 8:33 pm