

Minutes

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail

Minutes for the Open Monthly Meeting – June 5, 2018

President Mike Morrison called to order at 7:05 pm

In Attendance

Members: Mike Morrison, Jerry Messenger, William Sandborn, Reno Deluzio, Harold Rhodes, Bill Kavanaugh, Margaret Myatt, Catherine Guido, Brett Staupe

Non-members: Joel Ross, Vickie Griffin

Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes to review/approve. Catherine Guido will work on drafting May meeting minutes with input from Bill Sandborn.

Updates presented by Mike Morrison, President

- Dick Flook will no longer be able to participate as liaison for the police department or to help solicit sponsorships due to an illness in the family. Nancy Wojcik will be stepping down from her Friends board position due to personal circumstances. She will continue to check mail, make bank deposits, communicate with Mike Bresciani and order dog bags until her term ends in September 2018. All three director positions will be up for renewal in September.
- An archive of meeting minutes have been uploaded to the Friends website.
- Reno is in the process of finalizing a location for the Zain Ridge bench.

Updates presented by Catherine Guido, Vice President

- No update.

Update from William Sandborn, Treasurer

- A treasurer's update will be provided at the next meeting. The Umbrella policy has been renewed for another year.

Updates:

- Harold Rhodes provided an update on upgrades to make the trail more accessible to those with low vision. A draft handout was provided for discussion and is attached to these minutes. The handout lists completed items and items to be completed (some optional). There was discussion of relocating handicap parking spots and a tree (or more) to possibly allow for construction of an accessible path or ramp to the existing gazebo at Dilla Street by September. Vickie Griffin mentioned a group named "Team with a Vision" which is a blind running team. They would benefit from the upgrades. State officials could be invited to an opening ceremony once any/all accessible trail projects are completed.

New Business:

- Joel Ross, an Eagle Scout candidate, presented his project idea for one (or more) "FixIt" stations. These stations would have tools that trail users could access to do minor bike repairs, if needed. There was concern about the station being destroyed or vandalized.
- The idea of cleaning up the section of trail by Big Y was mentioned as a good conservation/service (not Eagle Scout) project for the scouts.
- Installing a water station and/or a port-o-potty along the trail was discussed. Jerry Messenger will research the cost of a port-o-potty. The location can be discussed after cost details are obtained.

- Reno Deluzio suggested building a small walking bridge over the narrow part of the river by Route 85 condos as a possible scout project. Reno and Joel will further discuss this option after the meeting.
- Vickie Griffin has offered to help with the bike helmet project. Bike helmets have been purchased by the Police Department. Vickie will get in touch with Dick to find out more details. Ideas for how to distribute the helmets were discussed. The helmets could be handed out trailside, at a local event, helmet coupons could be handed out (helmets could then be picked up at the police station), trail users could perform an obstacle course or safety quiz before obtaining the helmet trailside, or attend a brief bike safety session. Distribution can be discussed further once Vickie obtains more details.
- The maintenance log was reviewed. A version that can be searched and sorted will be posted on the Friends website. The updated log of "Open" projects will be forwarded to the Parks Department. The updated log of possible scout projects can be forwarded to scout troops.
- The 10th Anniversary subcommittee will meet before the next meeting to discuss event details.
- Catherine Guido will verify if Granite Gulf and Hayes Photo should remain on membership cards as offering discounts. Milford Bicycle should remain. Other vendors could be considered.
- The members unanimously approved to move the July 3rd meeting to July 10th to avoid conflict with the fireworks event scheduled for July 3rd. The main topic will be the 10th Anniversary event at CraftRoots.
- Reno suggested posting a full agenda to the website or distributing via email before each meeting. He mentioned that the Parks Department is working on a comprehensive maintenance assessment to determine more accurately the true cost of maintaining the trail by the Parks Department. It needs to be a Town budgeted item of \$20,000 to \$30,000.
- The members unanimously approved to reimburse Brett Staupe no more than \$500 for maintenance of the trail entrance in the parking lot across from Sacred Heart church on Main Street and the trail entrance next to Dunkin Donuts (if needed). The maintenance would include activities including, but not limited to, weeding, grading, mulching, clipping/trimming, and clearing away any trash. The types of purchases expected to complete the task include, but are not limited to, mulch, gardening carpet, and small tools. An update on the completed task is expected at the next Friends meeting.
- Reno suggested ways to get members to come to meetings and participate. He suggested to start by contacting the trail adopters and inviting them to a meeting and perhaps require that a representative attends at least one meeting per year. Since Dick and Nancy will be stepping down, it would be useful to know what their roles and responsibilities are so that the Friends can solicit replacements.
- Next Meeting is Tuesday, July 10th at the Senior Center.

Motion to adjourn at 9:15 pm