

FINAL

THE FRIENDS OF THE MILFORD UPPER CHARLES TRAIL, INC. MEETING MINUTES JULY 8, 2026; 7:00 PM; MILFORD TOWN LIBRARY

Note: Five members (two being officers) are needed for a quorum. Only one officer was present during the June 2026 meeting; therefore, any motions, votes, etc. from the June 2026 will need to be repeated at this meeting (with a quorum) to become official.

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

- President Guido called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

2. LIST OF ATTENDEES

- Members: Reno Deluzio, Chris Ward, Henry Papuga, Mike Morrison, Don Francy, Alex Wilson, True Davis, Olivia Guido, Denise Simoneau, Catherine Guido
- Non-members: None

3. ELECTION OF NEW SECRETARY

- There were no nominations or expressed interest in the Secretary position. D. Simoneau volunteered to take notes and draft meeting minutes.

4. REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES FROM MAY 6 AND JUNE 10, 2026 MEETINGS

- Reviewed and approved unanimously, as revised.

5. PROPOSED SIDEWALK/BIKE PATH SAFETY BILL

- Continued discussion on Friend's possible support of this proposed bill.
- C. Guido received email from Marty Waltz (bill supporter) explaining she would like help with outreach, networking in support of the bill. The Friends have been the only group that have responded to Marty's request.
- The Friends agreed to continue discussion at the next meeting after reviewing the original bill more closely. The bill proposes to increase the length of time to file a claim for an injury that occurs on a municipal sidewalk, bike path, or other public way from 30 days to 2 years and increase the damages cap from \$5,000 to \$100,000.

6. OFFICER REPORTS:

a. PRESIDENT – Catherine Guido

- C. Guido reviewed May 2026 meeting minutes (there was not a quorum for the June 2026 meeting) and approved unanimously, as revised.
- **Action Item:** Finalized meeting minutes will be provided for upload to the website.

b. VICE PRESIDENT – Mike Morrison

- M. Morrison met with P. Rosenthal and provided the Friends banner and brochures for the bike safety event.
- QR code on website or at kiosks can be utilized for further information on the Friends and to donate.
- The domain name was renewed for \$25. Treasurer requested that board members be informed when money is spent so proper accounting can occur.

c. TREASURER – Henry Papuga

- Report for May and June 2026 were reviewed. Motion to reimburse H. Papuga \$19.03 for stamps, envelopes, etc. unanimously approved.
- 7. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**
- a. SAFETY/MAINTENANCE
 - The maintenance log on the website does not seem to be accessible to those who had access on the old website.
 - **Action Item:** A. Wilson will resolve.
 - b. WEBSITE TRANSITION/MAINTENANCE
 - A temporary banner was added to the website to promote the bike safety event.
 - **Action Item:** A. Wilsom with investigate tracking traffic on the website.
 - c. WINTER ACCESSIBILITY
 - No report
 - d. TRAIL COUNTER
 - Members met with Mike Mancini to discuss access of data from counters in crossing signals. If data cannot be obtained, new trail counters may be acquired by loan or possibly purchased using grants from National Grid, Charles River Watershed, Mass DOT, Mass Trails.
 - **Action Item:** P. Rosenthal and M. Morrison will coordinate to try using the old software to access data.
 - Crossing signals at Dilla Street are not working and are a safety concern. There was discussion about the old signals being replace with new signals.
 - e. BUILDING COMMUNITY
 - P. Rosenthal and several volunteers had their first successful community event on June 28, 2026. In conjunction with UMASS Memorial Health and the Milford Police a bike safety/helmet giveaway was held on the trail. A total of 29 helmets were fitted on children, pre-teens, and a few adults. Officer Souza and Chief of Police Tusino were present and spoke to several families about bike safety on the trail. The police dept offered to help with future events. It was noted that people from other towns and other states were on the trail that morning. No other events are currently scheduled but several are in planning stages.
 - f. EDUCATION/ENRICHMENT
 - C. Ward noted in his report that it has been difficult getting information from the historical commission to be able to put together historical content to put on signs along the trail. C. Ward will be meeting with R. Philbin (formerly of Milford Daily News) in the near future. He apparently has archives and articles from years past and may be a good resource. Laura Mann has been going to the Milford Room of the Milford Library and looking up historical information.
 - Discussion with Charles River Watershed and NEMBA (New England Mountain Bike Association) are being pursued. NEMBA can provide info on the Vietnam bike trail located off Route 85.
 - \$19.03 for stamps, envelopes, etc. unanimously approved.
- 8. OLD BUSINESS**
- g. EUGENE CIRCLE UPDATE

- R. Deluzio gave an update on the construction of a path from trail to Eugene Circle. He was awaiting word on two potential funding sources: a grant from Mass Trails (still pending), and the Legislative Earmark. H. Papuga noted that the MassTrails Grants for FY2027 has been released and Milford was not included in its list of towns receiving funds. R. Deluzio to confirm.

9. NEW BUSINESS/INVITATION TO SPEAK

- C. Guido encouraged members to submit topics, notification of presentations, notification of invited speaker, etc. to be forwarded to her for inclusion in agendas.
- A new subcommittee was created; C. Ward will lead. Discussed levels of membership (i.e., individual, family). H. Papuga noted that for filing organization paperwork, he needs to know if funds received are donations or for membership.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE/TIME/LOCATION

- The July meeting may be rescheduled from July 1 (the week of Independence Day holiday) to July 8, 2026 to increase attendance.

11. ADJOURN

- Adjournment at 8:40 pm unanimously approved.