

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail, Meeting Minutes, March 18, 2026

Attendees: Mike Morrison, Reno Deluzio, Chris Ward, Laura Mann, Pat Rosenthal, Ashley McComiskey, Catherine Guido, Don Francy, Becky Annis, Jamie Wheelock

Meeting started at 7:00 pm at Milford Town Library.

1. Announcements

Catherine Guido (President) will not attend the April meeting; Mike Morrison (Vice President) will conduct the meeting. The April meeting was rescheduled from April 1 to April 8 to avoid a conflict with the beginning of Passover.

2. Review of Visioning Workshop Results and Creation of Subcommittees

Winter Accessibility Subcommittee: Don Francy and Mike Schiavi

Action Items: Fact-finding; develop an understanding of the history regarding winter accessibility of the trail by speaking to Parks Dept, Trail Committee (since dissolved) members, etc. to capture what has been implemented, ruled out for cost/feasibility reasons, etc.

Building Community Subcommittee: Pat Rosenthal and Becky Annis

Action Items: Review list of suggestions from the Visioning Workshop, determine which suggestions align with the By-laws/Mission of the Friends, list what initiatives have/have not worked in the past.

Education/Enrichment Subcommittee: Chris Ward, Sharon Pigeon, Laura Mann

Action Items: Research/gather historical content about Milford/trail; research ideas/feasibility on how to share the content along the trail (i.e., informational walks, signage, etc.)

Safety/Maintenance Subcommittee: Catherine Guido and Mike Morrison

Action Items: Update the trail maintenance log, then get on Parks Dept meeting agenda to discuss maintenance log items.

3. Officer Reports

President

Catherine Guido reported:

The Secretary has resigned. An election to fill the vacant position will be held at a future meeting. Note: The membership has expired for two members of the Board of Directors. They will be given one week to renew membership. If not renewed, elections will be held to fill the vacant positions(s) at a future meeting.

Vice President Report

Mike Morrison reported:

CharityAdvantage website hosting renewal fee was paid for one month. Other low/no-cost hosting options are being explored/researched. Mike will be working with Alex Wilson (Milford resident) regarding an upgrade of the trail website.

Treasurer Report

Henry Papuga not in attendance.

None.

Secretary Report

Vacant

None.

4. Other Items/Updates

- Don Francy will be the liaison between The Friends and the Boy Scouts regarding service project along the trail. He will also be the liaison between The Friends and the Parks Dept.

- The history of the Adopt-a-Trail program was discussed. The discussion whether to reinstate the program or not will be a topic for a future meeting.
- The Wind Phone initiative (suggested at the Visioning Workshop) was mentioned. It was championed by Michael Shain and could be a potential Boy Scouts service project.
- Henry Papuga met with Braza Mancini Electrical Contractors to discuss how to access crossing signal counter data. Though a “people counting” event could be considered a way to build community (as was done in the past), automated counting was discussed as a more reliable way to collect the data.
- Revisions of the minutes for the March 18, 2026 meeting were discussed. Motion to approve as revised by Mike, seconded by Pat, approved unanimously.
- An organization known as BWALT (Boston Worcester Airline Train Line) just completed a trail similar to the Milford Upper Charles Trail and reached out to multiple members asking for advice on how to organize their own Friends group.

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:50 pm by Mike, seconded by Reno, approved unanimously.

Previous Action Items

Action Item	Owner	Notes	Status
Provide membership email list to Secretary	Henry Papuga	For member communications, Completed	Completed
Coordinate member communications and minutes distribution	TBD		Open
Research alternative website hosting options	Mike Morrison	Evaluate nonprofit hosting providers, Completed	Completed
Process CharityAdvantage one-month hosting payment	Mike Morrison	Temporary solution, Completed	Completed
Promote Audio Book Walk event	Catherine Guido	Coordinate with Milford Library	In Progress