

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail
And
The Milford Upper Charles Trail Committee
Joint Meeting Minutes

The second meeting of the committee and friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail was held on Wednesday, April 6, 2005 at the new Milford Senior Center on North Bow Street. The meeting commenced at 7:25 P.M. There were 9 committee members and 8 friends in attendance.

First on the agenda was the review of the minutes of the previous meeting. One change was added that noted Bob Buckley was going to get more details on establishing a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation for the Friends of the Milford Trail. He was going to follow up with Upper Charles Conservation Inc.

The project status was then presented by Reno.

Two major events:

1. Phase 2:

The latest estimated total project cost is \$3M. The Town is required to provide \$300K (10% total project cost) to qualify for the remaining 90% of Federal and State funds (\$2.7M). Current Phase 2 funding of \$150K is insufficient. Reno has started the process of requesting an additional \$150K from Town Meeting. He has reviewed this request with the Capital Improvement Committee and has received a favorable ranking. They have a point rating system where 25 being the highest ranking. The project received 21 points. The next step will be to meet with the Finance Committee.

2. Phase 1:

The contractor's Phase 1 pre-construction meeting with MassHighway in Worcester is scheduled for Thursday, April 7th. At this meeting, Reno will be able to discuss our concerns with the project and go over the contractor's schedule. As of now, the start date will be sometime in May. Reno will also try to get information from Mass Highway and the contractor regarding a Ground Breaking Ceremony.

Accompanying Reno will be Bob Buckley, Mike Santoro (Town Engineer), and Mike Bresciani (Parks and Recreation Director). Also invited to attend were Henry Papuga (Milford Water Company), Police Department representative, Fire Department representative and Mike Peterson from MA Electric.

From this meeting, Reno hopes to get a sense of what will happen and if there are any conflicting issues.

New England Power Company was in the process of completing their review of our plans for Phase 2 and Reno will follow-up to try to get some definite answers concerning the license status.

Fact sheets pertaining to areas of interest of the Friends of the Trail were compiled by Reno and passed out for review. This data was based on the fact sheets turned in at the last meeting and e-mail responses. There were 9 areas of interest listed. The majority of respondents chose

monitoring and maintenance of the trail. Reno discussed the importance of other areas that are so vital to the success of the trail. He further broke down the data and tried to pick 1 or 2 key people to focus on an area of support based on their expertise and how they rated their areas of interest. One person will be in charge and report back at the meetings. Right now the emphasis should be on recruiting new friends, fund raising, web-site development, special events and trail walks. Reno has already met with two qualified individuals, Margaret Myatt and Tom Frost, about updating the web site. At the next meeting, Reno will be looking for volunteers who will step up and take charge in heading up the sub-committees for the initial promotion of the trail and to get public attention.

The web page is currently being worked on by Margaret Myatt & Tom Frost and should be on line by the next meeting. Collectively they are trying to secure the graphics on the maps, history, photos, and informational forms on becoming a member of the Friends of the Trail. Reno has provided them with an updated history of the trail. Tom said the annual fee for the web site would be about \$150 per year at his cost. The Town Planner, Larry Dunkin, agreed to cover the annual cost under his budget. The web site should be added to our letterhead and can be accessed at either **Uppercharlestrail.org** or **Uppercharlestrail.com**.

At the last meeting Craig DellaPenna offered to set up an email List Serve for anybody who is interested in discussing the trail on line. Basically it is like a chat room and any member of the group can add a comment. Comments would go out to the other members who are on the list. The names are kept confidential and the list is self-maintained. Members can opt in and out. A motion was taken to implement the list serve for the group and it was unanimous.

Reno presented a rough draft of the Friends of the Trail Mission Statement for review and comment. He encouraged the members to present their comments, additions and changes. It should be a brief, eye-catching, strong statement, highlighting benefits to town.

Bob Buckley spoke briefly on the 501(c)(3) non-profit status. He contacted the President, George Fiske and the Secretary of the Upper Charles Conversation Land Trust. He felt they were very open to allowing us to come under the umbrella of their established organization. They will put it on their agenda to present to the Board of Trustees at the next meeting. Bob felt we would need to be a sub-committee of their organization, but there needs to be more research and documentation reviewed to get a better feel on what our limitations would be. Under the organization, it would allow us to raise funds and expend them without Town approval. We would have a treasurer from our committee who would manage and keep records of our funds. Bob will continue to follow up on the status of the 501(c)(3) organization and our involvement as a sub-committee.

Bob Buckley also spoke to Dennis Prefontaine, Commissioner of the Knox Trail Boy's Scouts, about coordinating the involvement of the Boy's Scouts and Cub Scouts in the maintenance and promotion of the trail. It was also suggested that we might be more successful working through the local contact, Ray Hirx, a representative of the Boy's Scouts, who lives in Milford.

Under new business, Reno has spoken with Shirley Niro, a local professional graphic artist, who said she would work with Reno on a volunteer basis on a trail brochure. Reno will need to get the artwork from Holliston that is needed for the brochure.

Bob Buckley also recommended that a task list be formulated under each of the areas of interest, so everyone would have a better idea of what needed to be done.

Before the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M. everyone was reminded that the monthly meetings would be held on the first Wednesday of the month at the Senior Center.