

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

June 1, 2005

The meeting was opened by Reno having everyone present introduce themselves.

A motion was then made to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, it was seconded and then unanimously approved.

Reno then discussed the sub-committee assignments. Reno asked if anyone would like to be re-assigned to a sub-committee. No one requested reassignment.

Considerable discussion then took place regarding the organization of the Friends of the Trail Committee (the Friends). The first type of organization discussed was an SS4. Becoming an SS4 organization would allow the Friends to open a checking account, and have the ability to collect and dispense funds. As an SS4 organization the Friends would not be a non-profit organization. Specifically this means that donations to the Friends would not be tax deductible. In addition, prior to forming an SS4 organization, the Friends would need to develop a set of bylaws that clearly state how the funds are controlled and who has the rights to the account.

Related to forming an SS4 organization, getting more involved with the Upper Charles Land Trust was discussed. A closer relationship with this group would give Milford more influence.

There was a short discussion on the potential of the Friends becoming a 501C3 organization. The initial formation of the 501C3 is more complex than the SS4, and the annual reporting requirements are more like a corporation.

Reno directed the group to give some thought as to which direction to go (SS4 vs. 501C3), as well as the potential closer relationship with the Upper Charles Land Trust.

Rosemary discussed thoughts related to fundraising:

- Getting a logo designed for “I Trail”
- Using the logo for buttons and possibly a bumper sticker
- It was suggested that a sign be placed at Lake Louisa facing Dilla St. announcing that “the trail is coming...”

Tom Myatt, Margaret Myatt, Reno, Frank Malangone, and Dave Cassinelli volunteered for the bylaws committee.

Reno discussed how he was occupied with the ground breaking. There was good feedback and it was well covered by the press.

Reno then discussed issues with Phase I construction:

- Benjamin Moore infringed on an easement with some cement blocks during their recent construction.

Reno moved on to issues with Phase 2:

Land acquisition from New England Power is still being negotiated with the town counsel involvement. At issue is the design of the trail without interference from the existing parking lots and the trail.

Reno then discussed his meetings with the Finance Committee. Although the Finance Committee was supportive of the project, he expected the meeting to go better than it did. Reno was given assurance that the Town has the "Free Cash". However, last year's snow removal claimed 80% of the free cash. After a discussion, the Finance Committee voted to wait until the fall to fund the trail request. At that time there will be more certainty of the amount of available free cash to fund capital projects.

However, waiting until the fall will lead to a six month delay in submitting an application to MassHighway for construction funding. Prior to applying, we need to demonstrate the town's commitment to fund 10% of the project.

Despite the Finance Committee's position, the Trail Committee passed a motion to petition the June Town Meeting for the \$150,000.

An \$8,100 GPI invoice was approved for payment.

The next meeting will be the first Wednesday of August.