

**Milford Upper Charles Trail and Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail
Joint Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 3, 2005**

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by Reno DeLuzio. He announced that the meeting tonight would be in two parts:

Part A – Friends of the Trail

Part B – Trail Committee

Reno had asked via email for someone to come forward to head up Friends of the Trail. Margaret Myatt has volunteered.

Reno proposed that Margaret be appointed Acting President of Friends of the Trail. The vote was unanimous.

Part A – Friends Meeting

Margaret took over.

1. She called for approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. Bob Buckley moved, seconded by Peg Knowlton, unanimously approved.
2. Reports were called for from subcommittees:
 - a. Non-profit organization – no report
 - b. Recruiting of new members – no report
 - c. Fundraising -- It was reported that Ann Marie McCarthy is raising cash at the Tuesday night band concerts via the sale of Avon products; i.e., \$2.00 from each sale goes to the trail.

Margaret announced that there is a form for donation on the trail website. She passed out copies to members.

Reno reported that the town accountant has advised that a gift account can be set up, accepted by the selectmen, to generally accept funds to be expended under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department for the purpose of promotion and maintenance of the Milford Upper Charles Trail and other related activities. This account would be used in the interim until such time as the Friends incorporate as a 501c3 nonprofit corporation and establishes its own account. Bob Buckley moved to create the gift account, the motion was seconded, unanimously approved. Reno will follow up with the proper paper work and present the request at the next Selectmen's meeting. He will also get the concurrence of the Parks and Recreation Commission

Margaret suggested a Media Photo Op could be created in the fall with members holding up checks as an incentive for others to contribute.

Rosemary Natelson reported that she has held meetings regarding fundraising. There is a plan to choose six designated sites marked by a Charles Trail graphic, a trail member with donation forms on a given Saturday.

Margaret suggested that a list of donor businesses be created. A letter should be sent to everyone on the list asking for donations.

Rosemary proposed a change in the logo. The fundraising committee had some suggestion for changes.

Reno explained that the logo had much effort behind it and is very complex in nature—the background is urban because this is an urban trail, with indicators of water, greenery, a path and a biker. He does not recommend changing it. The Trail Committee is custodian of the logo. The Trail has to have one logo so we have a unified identity. Multiple logos would be confusing. However if someone has a better design, a proposal should be made to the Trail Committee for review and approval.

d. Monitoring Committee

Reno reported that signage went up today saying ‘NO MOTOR VEHICLES ALLOWED. POLICE TAKE NOTICE. VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED.

Question from the floor: Mr. Sabasowitz asked if pets or animals permitted? Reno – yes

Will other towns that connect to the trail have the same rules as Milford? Reno – The committee is presently in contact with other towns. Although information is continually shared between Milford and Holliston neither town has focused on this issue to date.

e. Maintenance Committee

Too early for a report. The question of how trash is going to be managed. There has not yet been a decision. Trash, landscape and drainage will need to be addressed.

Question: Are trash receptacles in the design?

Reno – Trash receptacles are abused. We may or may not want them. This is a tough problem.

Margaret will check with established trails to learn how they handle the trash problems.

f. Brochure Development

No progress to date. Reno has been occupied with Phase 1 issues.

Margaret is working on Web Page development. The Upper Charles Trail web site has been revamped. This is a 5-town site with links. This Web Site has a link to the Milford site. Our web site lives on the Milford town page and includes an excellent rendition of the map.

g. Publicity

Ann McCarthy’s Tuesday night fund raising at the band concert is providing excellent publicity.

The groundbreaking and other many recent articles have provided publicity.

There will be a ribbon cutting. An opening ceremony must be planned. It can be simple or a family event.

The construction should be completed to at least Old Cedar Street by October.

h. Special Events

There is no one from this subcommittee at the meeting tonight. Margaret will call them and ask them to organize.

It was recommended that a date be set for the Trail Opening Ceremony. After some discussion, a motion was made by Frank Pirrello to set the date for Saturday, October 15 with a rain date of Saturday, October 22, seconded by Bob Buckley. The vote was unanimous.

i. By-Laws

Tom Myatt announced that a draft of the by laws is complete. It will be finalized next Tuesday, August 9 at a subcommittee meeting to be held at the Myatt home. The by laws will be then presented to the September meeting for a vote.

Margaret asked for other subcommittee reports. None.

Any old business? - none

New Business

The logo – question from Rosemary Natelson – can stickers be made easily and inexpensively with the present logo? Margaret answered yes.

Bob Buckley made the point that there is no Charles River in the logo. If there is to be a change, the Charles River should be added. Again, anyone proposing a logo change has to submit a design to the Trail Committee for approval. Margaret asked that any further suggestions be forwarded to her. She may be able to work with a graphic artist and asked for a name from anyone. Reno suggested Shirley Niro.

It was announced that Ed Thompson of WMRC Radio will interview Reno on Tuesday morning, August 9 as they walk the trail. Reno recommended that Margaret, as new acting president of the Friends should accompany them. Margaret agreed to attend.

Friends of the trail need to create a slate of officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer. This should be placed on the agenda for the next meeting so everyone knows there will be an election.

It was decided that the Friends would set up their own separate meeting. After some discussion, a motion was made by Bob Buckley, seconded by Tom Myatt to set the Friends' meetings for the first Tuesday of the month at 7 PM. Margaret will check with Ruthanne at the senior center to determine whether meetings can be held there.

Margaret showed cards she had run off with trail logo and a place for the name of a person who becomes a friend of the trail. The idea will be to offer 10% off at places of business that may wish to support the trail; i.e., eating and drinking establishments in close proximity to the trail.

A move was made by Bob Buckley and seconded by Tom Myatt to adjourn the Friends meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Margaret Myatt received a round of applause from the floor for a job well done!

Note: Howard Sabasowitz attended the meeting. Left his name and address is 91 Dunster Road address Holliston, Ma 01746. Tel: 508-429-7077. No email address.

Part B Trail Committee Meeting

Reno invited everyone to stay for the meeting although it was not necessary. Any Friends who wanted to leave could do so.

Reno briefed the meeting on the major events of the last six weeks. (A copy of the Briefing is available upon request).

Rosemary Natelson asked about the alternate route that being discussed by town officials. This alternate route will be a road from the end of Veterans Memorial Drive off Route 109 to Depot Street. It will utilize the same abandoned railbed corridor as the Phase 2 B Trail from the end of Veteran's Memorial Drive to Mount Pleasant Street. This proposed road is intended to alleviate the traffic on Main Street (Route 16). Reno has communicated with the Town Planner and the Town Engineer and they understand that the proposed alternate road design must include bike lanes.

Reno recently had a meeting in Boston with representatives from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization and MassHighway to get some guidance on how to proceed with Phase 2A&B in light of this alternate road study. They were not in favor of creating a Phase 2C to accommodate the Town's alternate road planning and advised the Trail Committee to proceed with Phase 2A&B as originally planned. If the alternate road looks like it may become a reality in the time frame of Phase 2 construction, then a re-assessment of going forward with Phase 2 would be made. They are currently supporting a Federal and State funding plan for Phase 2A&B construction start in the Spring of 2007. It would not be prudent to upset this plan with a speculative town proposal to construct the alternate road. Finally, they did not seem to have a problem with constructing the trail as planned and then constructing the alternate road over the same corridor sometime in the future as long as the alternate road contained bike lanes.

The hour being late, Reno deferred reporting on Phase 2 status to the September Trail Committee Meeting.

The Trail Committee will return to its regular meeting schedule on the first Wednesday of every month, 7:15 p.m., Town Hall and will focus on its mission to do all that is necessary to construct a 6.5-mile, ADA compliant bike trail through Milford from the Hopkinton town line to the Holliston town line.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.