

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
October 11, 2005

Call to Order

Margaret Myatt called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. Thirteen members were present.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the 9/6/2005 meeting.

Officer Reports

- Secretary – Tom Myatt:
 - The current membership count is 50. These comprise 69 members (some membership levels have multiple members).
 - Thirty-five of the memberships belong to the Class of 1957.
 - All members have been sent a thank-you letter.

- Treasurer – Dave Cassinelli:
 - Contributions to date total \$2,392: \$110 from Individuals, \$475 from Family, \$300 from Trail Guide, \$1,000 from Pathfinder, \$500 from Trailblazer, and \$7 from contributions (using new membership level names adopted later in meeting).
 - There have been no expenditures to date.

- Vice President – Tony Niro:
 - Many people are still worried about crossing on Dilla Street. Some factors which should alleviate concerns were noted:
 - The trail is not completed yet – there will be more signage on Dilla Street.
 - Local drivers will become more aware of the crossing.
 - Other trails, such as Assabet have similar road crossings.
 - There are crossings across busy streets downtown, and other areas of town.
 - Assabet River Rail Trail Grand Opening on September 24th 2005
 - Tony described the ceremony. There was a large tent and many vendors. A pamphlet from the opening was passed around.
 - One concern noted was that the ceremony was on the trail, which ruined the landscaping. Milford can have their ceremony at Fino Field, so this should not be a concern. Another suggestion was to split up the ceremony among different sites (For example, have a site by the Dilla crossing also).

- President – Margaret Myatt:
 - The Trail Grand Opening is postponed until spring due to safety concerns that the Massachusetts Highway Department has about officially announcing that the trail is open when it is actually still under construction.
 - The Milford Chamber of Commerce has invited the Friends to join their organization. The annual fee is \$250. Discussion ensued that this may not be best use of the Friends limited funds at this time, but that the next step should be for a Chamber representative to speak at a meeting of the Friends about the benefits of joining.
 - We could also join “Rails Trails Conservancy” a national trail advocacy organization. General consensus was to hold off for now.
 - We have been invited to participate in the Senior Center Expo on Friday, October 14th. There’s no real need to participate, but let’s all look for promotional opportunities.

Committee Reports

- Special Events Committee – Margaret Myatt:
 - See President’s report.

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- Fund Raising Committee – Ann Marie McCarthy
 - No report.
- Safety Committee – John Edmondson:
 - The Grand Opening activities regarding safety are on hold due to the postponement of the event. The give-away bike helmets will be stored at the Police Department.
 - The Police Department is interested in working with the Friends on Trail safety in the spring, closer to the Grand Opening date. They are agreeable with the “neighborhood watch” concept.
- Publicity Committee – Nancy Wojcik
 - No report.
- Trail Committee Report – Reno Deluzio:
 - Met with Capital Improvement Committee to review four articles. Will meet with Finance Committee tomorrow night.
 - Phase II: Two years away to starting. More engineering work to be completed.
 - There is a special town Meeting on 11/24 at which there will be 4 articles concerning the trail that can use support:
 - A request for another \$150,000.
 - Town to pay share of cost overrun cost. The total amount not known yet, but the known portion is \$15,000.
 - Clear up technical problem with bylaws
 - Land-taking article. Looking for an easement from a property owner, who is on board.
 - Any town resident can speak at town meeting so attendance is encouraged.

Old Business

- Grand Opening: No motions – see reports above.
- 501(c)(3) status: No motions – continue to look for attorney to assist with paperwork.

New Business

- Motion was made and unanimously carried as follows:

Petty Cash Fund Policy

The officers may approve by majority vote expenditures for general operations that sum to less than \$100 during each period between meetings of the general membership. Examples include, but are not limited to, postage and copying expenses. The Treasurer shall give a verbal report of any such expenditure at each meeting, as well as include them in the regular quarterly and annual reports.

- Motion was made and unanimously carried as follows to rename the membership levels:

<u>Old</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Individual	Individual	\$10
Family	Family	\$25
Pathfinder	Trail Guide	\$50
Trailblazer	Pathfinder	\$100
Corporate	Trailblazer	\$500

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- Motion was made and unanimously carried as follows:

Gift Policy

The Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail (“The Friends”) may accept gifts from other parties for the benefit of the Trail. A gift may be monetary, a promise of services, or an object.

Monetary Gifts

A monetary gift may be given in cash or by check. The donor may specify for what purpose the funds are to be expended, but the Friends shall not be obligated to meet any conditions by accepting a gift. This shall be explained to the donor before accepting the gift. The donor may then choose not to give the gift, but once granted and accepted it shall not be returned. Once accepted, the gift shall be turned over to the Treasurer for deposit in the Friends’ bank account

The donor shall be granted membership in the Friends at the highest level commensurate with the amount of the gift, unless the donor declines. The membership shall be for the same term as if the donor was paying dues for a membership.

Gift of Object or Promise of Services

A gift of a promise of services or an object may be either to directly benefit the Trail or to indirectly benefit the Trail through enabling the Friends to benefit the Trail.

Directly Benefit the Trail

Gifts that directly benefit the Trail by affecting the Trail’s physical character or utilization can be accepted by a majority vote of a quorum of the general membership, contingent upon approval of the appropriate officials of the Town of Milford.

Examples of this type of gift would be signs or waste containers for the Trail.

Indirectly Benefit the Trail

Gifts that indirectly benefit the Trail may be accepted a majority vote of a quorum of the general membership.

Examples of this type of gift would be free photocopying of materials for Friends’ meetings or stationery supplies for Friends’ correspondence.

The motion to accept a gift may or may not include a grant of membership in the Friends. If granted, the membership shall be at a level commensurate with the value of the gift and for the same term as if the donor was paying dues for a membership. The donor may decline membership.

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- Motion was made and unanimously carried to accept the gift of \$1075.00 from the Class of 1957 for the purpose of purchasing and installing a granite bench honoring Reno DeLuzio, pending approval by the Milford Parks Department for installing the bench.

Next Meeting

Motion was made and unanimously carried to have the next meeting on Tuesday 11/1 at 7:00 PM at the Senior Center.

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Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.