

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail  
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting  
February 7, 2006

**Call to Order**

Margaret Myatt called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. 13 members and 3 visitors were present.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the 1/10/2005 meeting with one change: Tony Niro did not speak to Joe Arcudi, Jr. regarding the upcoming Parks Commission election.

**Officer Reports**

- Secretary – Tom Myatt:
  - The current membership count is 57: 12 Individual, 28 Family, 6 Trail Guide, 10 Pathfinder, and 1 Trailblazer.
- Treasurer – Dave Cassinelli (absent):
  - The current finances (reported by the secretary):
    - Total revenues \$ 2,687.62
    - Total expenses \$ 822.50
    - Balance \$ 1,865.12 (matches the January bank statement)
- Vice President – Tony Niro:
  - David Kirchner will take over oversight of the construction of the kiosk by the scouts. David will need to talk to the Parks Department about approval of the kiosk specifications. The next Parks Department meeting is at 7:00 PM on 2/16 at the Armory. Tony is targeting the Sacred Heart trailhead as the location.
- President – Margaret Myatt:
  - The Articles of Corporation have been submitted to the state.
  - Town Counsel reported that the directors of the Friends would not have any liability for the Trail.
  - Alternatives is interested in volunteering for trail maintenance.
  - Milford Junior Woman's Club is also interest in helping with the trail.
  - Margaret and Sheldon Moniz of the Masons encouraged everyone to attend the Mason's one fund raising function of the year. Comedy Night will be held Saturday, Feb. 11th at the Portuguese Club. Call 508-212-4547 for more information.

**Committee Reports**

- Special Events Committee – Pat Rosenthal:
  - Currently considering June 17 and 24 for the grand opening event.
  - Kick off meeting for planning will be at 7:00 PM, Thursday, 2/23 at the Senior Center.
  - Several people volunteered to participate. It was suggested that everyone bring a friend.
  - Margaret will submit a press release to the Milford Daily News.
  - It was recommended that the grand opening event be scheduled before Legion Baseball schedules their games.
- Fund Raising Committee – Ann Marie McCarthy
  - The Fund Raising Committee meeting will be at 6:00 PM, Thursday, 2/23 at the Senior Center (preceding the Special Events Committee meeting).
- Safety Committee – John Edmondson (absent):
  - Sheldon noted that the poles in the middle of trail to block vehicles are black and hard to see. Reno responded that they are not finished yet; reflective tape will be added.

# Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail

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- Publicity Committee – Nancy Wojick (absent)
  - Nothing to report.
  
- Milford Trail Committee – Reno DeLuzio
  - Hopkinton Trail Committee
    - The committee has been active for a number of years on trails throughout the town. They are now starting to focus on the Upper Charles River Trail.
    - About a dozen people attended on a Friday morning.
    - Reno advised them about committee size and composition, land acquisition, environmental permitting, funding, design process, maintenance plan, and town bylaws.
    - They do not have the full endorsement of the board of selectman; some think the trail may not be conducive to development. Reno gave some advice on how to counter opposition: enlisting support of businesses, creating a Friends group, creating an outreach program to get the community involved.
  - Grant Application
    - The last Town Meeting appropriated \$150,000 for Design Phase II. Reno had committed to submit a grant to reimburse the funding. The grant has made it through several approvals and is now pending 30 days public review before the Transportation Secretary may approve it.
  - Abutters Meetings
    - Abutters meetings were successfully conducted for Phase I. Now must do the same for Phase II, which has many more residential abutters. There will be a series of 5 meetings at Town Hall, Room 14. The meetings are open to the public.
    - Abutters will receive certified receipt letters inviting them to a meeting. Meetings will not be announced in the press. Margaret will publish them on the Friends website.
    - **Reno asked the Friends to make as many meetings as possible to speak in favor of the Trail:**
      - **2/15: Deer St to Hopkinton town line**
      - **2/22: Route 109 to Beaver St.**
      - **3/01: Beaver St to Holliston town line**
      - **3/07: Dunkin Donuts to Senior Center**
      - **3/29: Mt Pleasant St to Veterans Memorial Drive.**

### Old Business

- Director elections for the two open positions:
  - Margaret nominated Anne Marie McCarthy as a director. She was unanimously elected.
  - Margaret nominated Deb Walther as a director. She was unanimously elected.

### New Business

- According to the bylaws, memberships must be renewed at the beginning of calendar year. Tom will send out a notice that dues should be paid by the next meeting.
- It was recommended that PayPal be made available on the Trail website for paying dues and making contributions. Margaret will follow up with Dave.
- Reno Baci, chairman of the Parks Commission reported that they have asked a subcommittee of the Finance Committee for a machine cut grass and remove snow. He also suggested that golfers who have golf carts volunteer them to drive elderly people at the grand opening event.
- Ann Marie noted that the cable company is offering grant money. It was suggested that we approach the video club at the high school about video taping the trail.

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**Next Meeting**

Motion was made and unanimously carried to have the next meeting at 7:00 PM Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Center.

**Adjournment**

Motion was made and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM.