

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

Call to Order

Margaret Myatt called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM. One visitor and thirteen members were present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the 2/7/2006 meeting.

Officer Reports

- Secretary – Tom Myatt:
 - The 2005 year-end membership count is 57: 12 Individual, 28 Family, 6 Trail Guide, 10 Pathfinder, and 1 Trailblazer.
 - The 2006 current membership count is 24: 14 Individual, 7 Family, and 2 Trail Guide, and 1 Pathfinder.

- Treasurer – Dave Cassinelli:
 - The current finances (reported by the secretary):
 - Income
 - Balance from 2005 \$ 1,914.96
 - Membership dues 2006 \$ 110.00
 - Total income \$2,024.96
 - Total expenses \$ 0.00
 - Balance \$2,024.96
 - Cost for accepting dues and contributions via Paypal on the website would be 2.29% and \$0.30 per transaction.

- Vice President – Tony Niro:
 - Tony attended all the abutter meetings to date and gave the following updates:
 - 1st abutter meeting (2/15 - Deer St to Hopkinton town line): One abutter attended who was concerned about trash and ATV's, but was in favor of the trail.
 - 2nd abutter meeting (2/22 - Route 109 to Beaver St.): Six abutters attended who had some concerns about a privacy fence, ATV's, and trash.
 - 3rd abutter meeting 3/01: Beaver St to Holliston town line: Two abutters attended who had some concerns about ATV's going onto one property. Reno said it would be blocked off. There were also concerned about people parking at the end of dead end road (Venice) to get onto the trail.
 - The Boy Scouts want to make a sign for the trail. Tony met with Chris Chamberlain (15 years old) and his dad. They will mail a proposal to Parks Department after reviewing it with Tony this weekend. Tony is thinking of Dunkin Donuts area for the sign. Another suggestion was the Route 85 exit.

- President – Margaret Myatt:
 - The 501(c)(3) application is still outstanding. Once the state approves, the federal form will be submitted.
 - The candidates' forum is on March 30th, 10:00 am at the Senior Center. Two people are running for Parks Commissioner, so it would be good if some members of the Friends could be there to ask their views about the trail.

Committee Reports

- Special Events Committee – Pat Rosenthal:
 - The kick off meeting for planning was on 2/23. About 10 people attended.
 - The Grand Opening event date is June 17th from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
 - Fino field is reserved for both June 17th and June 18th.

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- Dave Cassinelli will contact vendors.
 - Sue Clark, head of Milford Community Development Office, will help as a consultant.
 - The Masons will contribute an antique fire engine and balloons.
 - Alternatives Unlimited will coordinate water and snack stations along the trail.
 - The Junior Woman's Club is considering running a scavenger hunt and a bike decoration and parade activity.
 - The committee discussed give-away ideas: water bottles, trail mix, t-shirts, buttons, etc.
 - The committee agreed that the grand opening should be self-funding.
 - Question: how much money can we spend?
 - Agenda
 - Ribbon cuttings
 - School bands
 - Demonstrations
 - Fun Run
 - Ta Chi club
 - Silver Sneakers
 - Tae Kwon Do suggested but not confirmed
 - 50-50 raffle
 - Kempo Karate
 - AMC
 - Vendor raffle was suggested (vendors provide donations)
 - Trackless train would be \$600 for 5-hours, including driver.
 - 50 bike helmets from police
 - Mass Bike Organization would present bike safety for \$100, but it would be more of an inside presentation. Suggestion is that the police could do it instead.
 - Milford Explorer will do honor guard.
 - Suggestion was made to sell signs for \$100
 - Boy Scouts Troop 2 will help.
 - How to get sponsors to do printing? Anne Marie has some suggestions.
 - The next planning meeting is at 7:00 PM, Monday, 3/13 at the Senior Center.
- Fund Raising Committee – Ann Marie McCarthy
 - The fund raising committee needs more people to join the 3 people currently on the committee.
 - Tony Niro and Sheldon Moniz will join the Fund Raising Committee.
 - Ann Marie expressed concern that different members will solicit the same business if not properly coordinated.
 - The Special Events (Grand Opening) committee will pass vendor solicitations onto the Fund Raising Committee.
 - Anne Marie asked if the Masons can host a wine tasting event for fund raising before the grand opening.
 - Safety Committee – John Edmondson
 - John will start ramping up now that things are in motion.
 - Publicity Committee – Nancy Wojcik
 - The committee is focusing on Grand Opening. Theresa Mazzarelli will be point person on publicity for the Grand Opening because Nancy will not be as available during this time frame.
 - Milford Trail Committee – Reno DeLuzio

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- Reno was absent, attending the fourth of five abutters meetings.
- The fifth meeting, for the section of the trail from Mt Pleasant St to Veterans Memorial Drive, is at 7:15 PM on March 29th at Town Hall, Room 14.

Old Business

- Motion was made and unanimously carried to rename the membership levels to Bronze (\$10), Silver (\$25), Gold (\$50), Pathfinder (\$100), and Trailblazer (\$500).
- Motion was made and unanimously carried to make Paypal available on the trail website for paying dues and making contributions.

New Business

- Motion was made and unanimously carried to establish a Maintenance Committee. The committee will coordinate groups who want to perform maintenance on the trail.
- Linda Konvalinka spoke on some ecological aspects of the trail. There was discussion about:
 - The cranberry bog behind Shadowbrook
 - Bird watching along the trail
 - Moving some nut trees before construction destroyed them
 - Having some activities on the trail on Earth Day, including getting the Boy and Girl Scouts involved. There is a Girl Scout leaders meeting this Thursday at the Library.

Next Meeting

Motion was made and unanimously carried to have the next meeting at 7:00 PM Tuesday, April 4th at the Senior Center.

Adjournment

Motion was made and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM.