

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
June 4, 2007

Call to Order

Pat Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. 12 members and 7 visitors were present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the 4/3/2007 meeting.

Guest Speaker

Naman Shah, Eagle Scout candidate from Troop 18, proposed a project for building bat boxes and tree sparrow boxes to place along the trail. Whereas bats are nocturnal and eat insects during the night, tree sparrows eat insects during the day. Naman plans to build and install 34 tree sparrow boxes and 10-15 bat boxes, 15 feet high in already existing places such as trees. He has to go through a process with his Boy Scout Troop and Council. He will probably start work in late July or early August, and finish in mid-August. Another suggestion is to build and install a Pink Martin box. Naman is working with Linda Konvalinka. He asked about the Parks Department lending a bucket truck – Tony thought they did not have one.

Officer Reports

- **President – Pat Rosenthal**
 - Pat is mostly focused on the Grand Opening celebration.
 - She organized an awareness promotion at the Whole Foods grocery store in Bellingham. Pat, Dave Cassinelli & Julie Rosenthal provided membership info, promoted the grand opening event, answered questions, etc. They received lots of positive feedback, as well as questions about the trail development phases and how big the trail will be. Customers were offered the opportunity to round up their purchases to the nearest dollar and contribute the rounded up amount to the Trail.
 - Alternatives Unlimited is a group working to sponsor portion of Trail with a grant, which was approved by their organization.
 - Pat should hear about the status of the Milford National grant tomorrow.
 - There will be press releases about donating used bikes at the GO.
 - A sponsor page and event schedule for the GO has been added to the Trail website
 - The doggie clean up stations will be installed this week.
- **Vice President – Tony Niro**
 - Tony has been in contact with Bob Buckley about updating the Trail map. He will mount an updated map on Plexiglas for the GO.
 - Tony noted that there was another article in the Milford News about the doggie stations. The reporter said she would be interested in any new events regarding the Trail.
 - Tony is in the process of confirming with Lt Nelson about the first aid station at the GO, but believes that the Fire Department will have one in place as previously discussed.
- **Secretary – Tom Myatt**
 - Tom handed out his report (attached to the minutes)
- **Treasurer – Dave Cassinelli**
 - Dave reports that the Friends finances are in excellent shape.
 - We have collected close to \$17,000 since inception.
 - Currently, we have spent or committed to spend about \$7300, leaving about \$9,700 in uncommitted funds.
 - Not included is \$2,000 in funds donated to the Town for the Trail.
 - We have received \$575 in vendor registrations for the GO to date.

Committee Reports

- **Trail Committee Report – Reno DeLuzio**

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
June 4, 2007

- Phase 1:
 - The first granite bench will be installed by Dunkin Donuts within the next 10 days.
 - Reno updated the trail history for the website – will send to Margaret to publish.
- Phase 2
 - There were seven remaining land easements to acquire. Five are completed and two are outstanding, including National Grid.
 - Responded to Mass Highway preliminary design comments. If accepted, then will have public hearing, maybe in July. Good to have as many supporters there as possible as it helps to keep good standing for funding. Reno will let us know when the date is set.
 - Mass Highway objected to a proposal to add some traffic signals. Mass Highway standards are very high for adding signals. The Selectmen are advocating for the signals. In any case, this will not hold up Phase II.
- Special Events Committee – Pat Rosenthal
 - Pat reviewed the event schedule, which is published on the Trail website.
 - Dave reviewed a diagram of the grounds & the planned logistics for the GO event
 - 35 RSVP's to the invitations: 29 positive, 5 regrets & 1 speaker
 - 48 vendors/ exhibitors to date
 - Safety:
 - Reno and Mike Bresciani met with police representatives about keeping commuter parking lot clear and directing parking.
 - The police will also take care of the ad hoc soccer players that use the field. It was suggested that we put flyers on car windows that field won't be available for soccer playing that Saturday.
 - The tent vendor will supply podium. Reno's son will provide PA system.
 - Will have electric generators. Tony and Reno have extension cords.
 - Staging will be in front of the fence on left hand side, with a canopy in case of rain. The podium will be located here along with about 10 chairs for speakers / dignitaries at the ribbon cutting.
 - The 30x50 tent will be located on Fino field with tables & chairs (seating for ~150).
 - Parade from Commuter Trailhead onto Fino field:
 - Milford Explorers Post Honor Guard will lead with the flags
 - Dignitaries / speakers will follow
 - Silvers Sneakers will follow with the rest of the ribbon cutting audience behind them
 - There should be about 30 volunteers plus 15 – 25 Masons. Will contact Mr. Brucato about getting National Honor Society volunteers.
 - Porta Potties – 4 rented – need to be locked on delivery Friday until pick up on Monday. Reno & Dave have locks, Mike has the chains. 3 units will be placed at Fino field area, 1 unit will be placed at Louisa Lake area
 - Still looking for golf carts. Bernie at Karl Bright has some connections but all golf courses are having tournaments (day before Fathers Day). The Hopedale Police Dept has a small cart that Bernie is looking into. If we rent golf carts, we need our insurance company to fill out an accord form for the rental company. Dave will call Karl Bright and the golf cart rental company.
 - Masons may have some wheelchairs that could be available – Sheldon will look into it.
 - Publicity
 - Nancy has list of where all signs are presently. Passed it around to see if anybody has any ideas about where to place the few remaining signs.
 - She has signs for the field.
 - Final push this week with cable and radio.
 - There will be no cable television coverage that day.
 - Looking for video coverage for historical record. No response from High School. Reno will call Mr. Brucato.
 - GO Day management
 - Pat is in overall charge
 - Sheldon and Muffin are in charge the volunteers

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
June 4, 2007

- The Friends table
 - Dave is charge of the vendors
 - Will be the central clearinghouse
 - Will be the Information Center (and signed as such)
 - Will sell Friends t-shirts
 - Will have membership forms for new members to sign up
 - Will have Trail brochures
 - Needs a cash box – Sheldon will supply one.
- Dave is looking for signage for the DJ and Friends Table (Information Center), etc. Nancy and Theresa will handle.
- Theresa will make name tags with the trail logo for volunteers. She will bring blanks as well. Pat will provide Theresa with the volunteer names & cell phone numbers & sign in sheet (necessary for student volunteers & post event acknowledgements)
- There is a Trail clean-up day in preparation for the GO mid-next week – Alternatives Unlimited has volunteers for this in addition to Saturday June 9th.
- Pat will schedule one more meeting of a smaller group before the Grand Opening.
- Fund Raising Committee – Barbara Bradbury and Tony Niro
 - Received a \$1,000 check from Karl Bright for a bench.
 - Received a \$1,000 check from Barker Steel for a bench.
 - Received a \$1,000 pledge from the Royal Buddha for a bench.
 - Received a pledge from NEMBA for a bench
 - Milford Regional Hospital has pledged to sponsor \$450 for the DJ for the GO.
 - Midtown Fitness gave \$2,000 to the Town for the Trail. The Selectmen put it in a Parks Department account. Now Midtown has decided they would like a portion of this donation to go towards a granite bench. Pat said she thinks we can do that.
 - Tony presented a proposal to purchase 12 granite benches once we received commitments for donations for 12 benches. There would be savings by purchasing and installing a number of benches at once rather than one at a time. After considerable discussion regarding the pros and cons, it was decided to table the purchase proposal until after the Grand Opening. It was decided that we would have bench information available at the Friends table during the GO event.
- Dog Education Committee – Nancy Mullins: absent
 - There will be a dog information table at the GO as a follow on to the Friends commitment in February.
- Safety Committee – chair vacant
 - See Special Events Committee for updates regarding the Go.
- Publicity Committee – Nancy Wojick
 - See Special Events Committee for updates regarding the Go.
- Maintenance Committee – Jennene Pasquarosa: absent
 - No report.
- Environmental Education Committee – Linda Konvalinka: absent
 - No report.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- None

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
June 4, 2007

Next Meeting

Date was not decided. The first Tuesday of July is Fourth of July eve, so it will be better to have the next meeting a week earlier or later. The officers will make a decision that will be published soon.

Adjournment

Motion was made and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM.

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail
 Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
 June 4, 2007

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail
Secretary Report
 June 5, 2007

2007 Membership Status at 6/1/07					
	12/31/06	Dropped	New	Current	Percent
Bronze	37	6	4	35	48%
Silver	17	2	1	16	22%
Gold	12	0	1	13	18%
Pathfinder	7	0	1	8	11%
Trail Blazer	1	0	0	1	1%
Total	74	8	7	73	100%

2007 Membership Dues at 6/1/07					
	New	Renewal	Total	Amount	Percent
Bronze	4	8	12	\$ 125.00	14%
Silver	1	5	6	\$ 150.00	16%
Gold	1	2	3	\$ 150.00	16%
Pathfinder	1	4	5	\$ 500.00	54%
Trail Blazer	0	0	0	\$ -	0%
Total	7	19	26	\$ 925.00	100%

2007 Renewal Status at 6/1/07		
	Number	Percent
Renewal requests with a positive response	19	44%
Outstanding requests - less than 30 days after 1st notice	5	12%
Outstanding requests - less than 30 days after 2nd notice	11	26%
No response after 2 notices (dropped)	8	19%
Total renewals requested	43	100%