

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
November 6, 2007

Call to Order

Pat Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. 8 members and 4 visitors were present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the 10/2/2007 meeting.

Guest Speakers

Jamie Francis and Janelle Long from Alternatives Unlimited, Inc. provided some background information on their organization and its mission to provide meaningful community service projects and connections for their clients. They are interested in partnering with the Friends of the Trail in “adopting” a portion of the trail and being responsible for maintaining and beautifying that segment. This would entail having their clients actively participate in meetings and in the planning of and record keeping for these maintenance activities, working with the Friends maintenance & enhancement chair. They were also interested in running a “Bike Safety Day” in the spring. Alternatives Unlimited will be able to provide some funding from a grant that they have received. Linda Konvalinka also proposed asking this group for help in tagging and removing invasive species along the trail and replacing them with native shrubbery. However, this project would require some specialized equipment that is not currently available to us. It was agreed that Dave and Sheldon need time to define parameters for these projects and that they would be able to establish these for the spring. At that time we will meet with the group again.

Committee Reports

- Town of Milford Trail Committee – Reno DeLuzio
 - The recent public hearings resulted in a positive report to Mass Highway that gets the project by the 25% milestone. Now they will proceed to the next level of design which is the detail work for Phase 2. The goal is to get us to the 75% point by Christmas in order to keep funding in this fiscal year.
 - Reno gave us copies of the Phase 1 trail plan in the revised American format which is feet and inches instead of metric.

- There was a discussion regarding plowing the trail in the winter. Reno will review the options with the Trail Committee and Art Morin will bring it to the Parks Dept. Both will report back to us in December. The general consensus was to keep it as it was intended as a winter sport venue for this year.
- Fundraising and Membership – Barbara Bradbury
 - Barbara will be meeting with a reporter from the Milford Town Crier to feature Barker Steel's addition of a custom made bicycle on a large concrete pad next to their granite bench installation behind their building on Sumner St. At that time she will also provide a list of all bench donations and locations to the press.
- Maintenance – Dave Cassinelli
 - Dave developed a master plan for trail maintenance after reviewing Reno's suggestions with Mike Bresciani. It would mostly entail mulching, trimming and twice a year cleanups that the Parks Dept. does not have the manpower to cover. Sheldon has been researching possible sources for mulch and also contacting community groups to develop planned maintenance support from them.
 - Reno suggested that we review equipment needs with the Parks Dept. and see what can be addressed at the spring town meeting.

Officer Reports

- President – Pat Rosenthal
 - Pat distributed copies of the new "President's Letter" that will be posted on the website. This is part of the reorganization of the web page that Margaret Myatt is working on. The letter is intended to keep people informed of the activities of the Friend's group and encourage involvement on their part. Margaret has been kind enough to help revise the look of the webpage and make it more user friendly, however she is working full time and unable to do a total re-design. We have added the position of web designer to our wish list.
 - Naman Shah has completed his Eagle Scout project. He installed 20 tree swallow bird houses and 10 bat boxes. Pat has asked if he could do a tour explaining the reason for the installation as part of our educational mission.

- Mark Fitzgerald, another Eagle Scout, has notified us that his bench project has been rescheduled for the spring.
- We have been notified by the Harmon Foundation that we are going to receive another \$2500.00 grant in support of our work to enhance community life in Milford.
- The Friends email site is being used by residents to communicate their comments, requests and suggestions. This is a very positive thing and we try to monitor the site on a regular basis and respond to people in a timely manner.
- Vice President – Tony Niro – absent
 - Worked with Naman Shah and Joe Arcudi to complete the installation of the bat boxes and tree swallow houses
 - Worked with David Nyran on the installation of the 6 granite benches. Tony did all of the cleanup after David installed the benches.
 - Chris Chamberlain notified Tony that he has dropped out of the Eagle Scout program and therefore will not be building a kiosk for the Trail. Tony followed up with Karen Mullen at Sign Stop for a quote. The amount given was far beyond the \$750 which has been donated for this project by the Waters Corporation. Art Morin suggested contacting Blackstone Valley Tech. He, Sheldon Moniz and Pat will follow up on this. Linda Konvalinka suggested several youth oriented possibilities & will follow up with Art on these.
 - Matt Fitzgerald has notified Tony that he finds it necessary to postpone his Eagle Scout bench project until the spring.
 - Pat read with deep sadness and regret Tony's letter of resignation from his positions as Vice President and Fundraising Co-chair. He also retracted his offer to adopt and maintain a section of the trail. Tony explained that his resignation was for personal reasons and stated that he would remain a member of the Friends and would help out whenever he could.
- Secretary – Nancy Wojick
 - This is first meeting acting as secretary. There were 2 renewals this month, and 5 first renewal letters will be sent in November, 3 bronze and 2 gold.
 - As part of scheduled cleanup on Nov. 17 I sent out a postcard mailing. Also notified radio, TV, and newspapers.

- Treasurer – Tom Myatt – absent
 - Treasury has a healthy balance of \$9251.89
 - 2 largest expenditures were for purchase and installation of granite benches

New Business

- Pat announced the resignation of Deb Walther from the Board of Directors. This was due to Deb's new job and increased commute and work times.
- A motion was made and seconded that we accept nominations for the Vice-President and vote on that position at the December meeting. Also, we will request suggestions to fill the spot on the Board of Directors.

The next meeting will be December 4, 2007 at the Senior Center on North Bow St.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50.