

Minutes

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail

Minutes for the Open Monthly Meeting – February 4, 2014

President Pat Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 7:05pm

In Attendance:

10 Members

3 Non-members

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Motion to approve meeting minutes, seconded, passed unanimously.

Guest Speakers: Katie Dexter, Junior Girl Scout Leader, & Junior Troop 30367: They are working on the Bronze Award. They will build the “little Libraries” and will contribute the books to get it started. They are thinking of putting one over near Louisa Lake or by the Butterfly Garden. They are willing to maintain it and check in on it throughout the year. The Friends give their support to the Troop. Nancy Wojak has volunteered to be the point person to work with the girl scouts on their project.

Guest Speaker: Justin Stiles, Troop 4: He is looking to complete his Eagle Scout project. He has designed a 3-wall shelter for along the trail. The purpose of the shelter would be for people to get protection from any inclement weather or to take a break during their walk if they need it. The location he was thinking of may not be feasible so Friends asked him if he had a plan b or if there is a different location. It was agreed that the Friends would discuss his proposal and get back to him.

Update presented by Reno Deluzio, Milford Trail Committee: The phase 3 construction has halted due to the weather. He has been working on field directives for the contractor. There has finally been an agreement between Holliston and Milford. The Holliston portion will be worked on June, July. He is looking into putting a flashing pedestrian light at Hayward Street.

Updates presented by Pat Rosenthal, President:

The Trail Symposium: All of the towns met at the beginning of January. The goal has been to swap towns each year. The symposium will be held either in Holliston or Ashland. We are still working on a location. One of the proposed locations would be the Ashland Community Center but it will have a fee to rent the space.

Tentative date is Saturday, March 8, 2014.

Followed up with the BVT students about some of the projects they were looking to do along the trail but they have not returned emails yet.

We are looking for someone to help with writing some stories for the website. Some story ideas are about the Critter Visits donation, and the recent scout project.

Update presented by Tom Myatt, Treasurer: We have had a lot of good activity, especially for one month. We received a \$500 check from the Harmon Foundation. He called Oracle about the bench donation matching and that should be forthcoming. Dave's total bench donation is \$2455. The federal taxes have been filed.

Update presented by Katie Siciak, Secretary: We have had a few inquiries through the email and Facebook, which have been forwarded to Pat. We were able to have the Girls Scout Troop and Justin Stiles come in to discuss their projects. She was also able to find a new service to use for updates and emails to the members and friends of the trail. The new service is MailChimp.com. It is free and fully customizable. It can be used to track subscribers, email and attachment opens. It also provides a way for people to subscribe to the emails through the website and Facebook.

Update presented by Dick Flocks, Sponsor Drive: He is currently working on the sponsor drive making phone calls to the current sponsors to have them sponsor for the current year and also find new sponsors. The sponsor drive runs from January – March.

Update presented by Mike Morrison: They have filmed four episodes so far. The first episode is done and will air this upcoming week and every week in February. The first airdate is Friday, Feb. 7th, at 6:30 PM. The schedule will then be Fridays at 6:30pm, Saturdays at 9:30am, Mondays at 3:00pm and Sundays at 7:30pm. It will be airing on Milford TV Educational, Comcast channel 11 or Verizon channel 40.

Update presented by Nancy Wojick, M&E Committee: Not much going on due to the weather. There are still issues with the lights. Dilla Street and Beaver Street haven't been working.

Anyone observing malfunctioning traffic lights, downed trees, or any other issues along the trail are encouraged to contact the Friends via email or phone and the information will be forwarded through our M&E chair to Mike Bresciani and the Park's department.

Reno has finally met with Mike Bresciani to discuss the maintenance issues. Reno proposed the Maintenance log to keep up with all the problems along the trail. He has gone through the log and has updated it based on what has been resolved and what still needs to be addressed.

Old Business:

We will want to create a committee to be in charge of planning the grand opening of the new portion of the trail. The "missing link" still has a completion date of October.

New Business:

Funding for the Trail Symposium: It looks like there will need to be funding for the location of the trail.

Motion: To allocate an additional \$200 towards funding the Trail Symposium. Seconded, passed.

Motion: To not allow a new structure be built along the trail for Justin's Eagle Scout Project, seconded, passed.

We would be open to a birdhouse project along the trail or a new kiosk along the new portion of the trail.

Proposal from Arlen Johnson– He is a freemason. He works with 13 lodges to help fundraise for local charities. He has come up with the idea for a relay, a walk-a-thon for heart disease prevention. He would like to use the trails for this. His proposed walk-a-thon is tentative for June. We have invited him to return to the March meeting in order to present further information since he should know more then.

Next meeting will be March 4, 2014 at 7pm.

Motion to ajourn at 8:58pm.