

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail

Minutes for the Open Monthly Meeting – April 7, 2015

President Pat Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm

In Attendance:

Members - Tom Myatt, Katie Siciak, Mike Morrison, Margaret Myatt, Pat Rosenthal, Reno DeLuzio, Mark Tolpin, Nancy Wojick, Bill Kavanaugh, Rob Davis, Dick Flooks, Sheldon Moniz

Non-members – Dana Chalberg

Approval of Minutes:

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

Guest Speaker: Margaret Myatt: Milford Commission on Disability has been actively supporting the trail and monitoring it. The trail has add-ons that are not handicapped accessible. The MCD has been keeping an eye on these items and has been speaking with Reno about them. They have been trying to keep the trail compliant as handicapped accessible requirements change over time. A proposal was made for an audio cell program that would enable users to use their cell phones to obtain additional info about places of interest along the Milford section of the trail & that could potentially be expanded to include other points of interest in Milford should the program be successful. Margaret proposed that the Friends could jump start the program and pay for the first year (estimated cost of \$700-800). Margaret indicated that she would contact other groups such as the historical commission, quarry walks, etc for their level of interest. The Friends agreed to revisit this topic as additional info becomes available.

Updates presented by Reno Deluzio: The repair work on the trail that has been proposed to Scott Crisafulli and Steve but he has heard very little back primarily due to other highway dept priorities resulting from the harsh winter. They said to reach back out in another month or so.

Updates presented by Pat Rosenthal, President:

Update presented by Tom Myatt, Treasurer: Total income: \$698.59, Total expense: \$111.12, closing balance: \$18,804.34, uncommitted funds: \$12,315.46

Update presented by Mike Morrison, Vice President: Has not had a chance to get back in touch with the TV station. The audio of the last episode had to be re-recorded which is why that episode has been delayed.

Update presented by Katie Siciak, Secretary/ Social Media & Website: There are 72 members as of date. She will be sending an email out to the current adopters to confirm their ongoing participation in the program & include info about this year's spring cleanup. Katie mentioned that as of April 21st the Google search rankings will be affected for websites not mobile-friendly. Katie will reach out to Richard about the website and updating to a responsive design. Pat will provide website updates including sponsors, Wish List updates & content articles.

M&E Committee (Nancy Wojick/ Pat Rosenthal): There are some sections that are messy but overall not in bad condition. Sheldon wanted to know when Bee Lines could come out and mark the trail with quarter mile markers. The Milford Beautification Day is Saturday April 25th.

Sponsorship Chair- Dick Flooks: Has been contacting a lot of local businesses about sponsoring the trail. He has about 20-21 sponsors for this year. He is still waiting to hear back from a few businesses. The group declined the proposal for WMRC as a pro-bono sponsor.

Pat will work with Richard & Dick to ensure the sponsor web page is updated for the 2015 sponsors. Donation acknowledgements will be sent to the 2015 sponsors by Margaret Myatt.

Old Business: Adopter/Sponsor meet-and-greet will be postponed until the fall. The annual trail census will be May 16th. Volunteers are needed to assist to help tabulate the number of users & their type of usage along the trail during one day. This info is used to assess potential safety concerns, educational programs, etc as per the Friends charter.

New Business: Pat suggested handling the spring cleanup a little differently this year especially where there are several other groups planning cleanups around Milford (Citizens for Milford, Charles River Watershed Assoc, etc. If each Adopter cleans up their sections, the Friends volunteers can go through after and clean up anything leftover. The spring cleanup will be between April 15th and May 15th. The adopters can choose a time during that month to go out and clean up their section and let us know when it's complete. The Friends will be responsible for 2-3 sections that are currently not adopted.

Wish List items and estimated cost:

- Permanent signs about the Friends about when the meetings are and other information (\$200)
- Disability Commission enhancements (\$8,000)
- Consider plowing a portion of the trail
- Educational programs (\$500)
- Extend fencing along Senior Center spur by gas station to prevent trash

Motion: Allocate \$300 to enhance the signage on the kiosks to have permanent signs that share information about the Friends organization

Motion: Allocate \$8,000 to the Milford Disability Commission to identify and prioritize items for trail improvement to make the trail accessible. Those items will come back to the friends for final approval.

Motion: Allocate \$1500 towards educational programs

Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 5, 2015

Motion to adjourn at 8:41pm.