

Minutes

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail

Minutes for the Open Monthly Meeting – June 2, 2015

President Pat Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm

In Attendance:

Members - Katie Siciak, Mike Morrison, Margaret Myatt, Pat Rosenthal, Reno DeLuzio, Mark Tolpin, Bill Kavanaugh, Denise Simoneau, Dave & Rita Wilkie, Brett Staupe Gary Bonetti, Guru Simran Kaur Khalsa-Bob
Non-members – Dana Chalberg

Approval of Minutes:

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

Guest Speaker, Officer Varterisian from MPD:

- Officer from Milford Police Department. He mentioned the issue of hazardous waste such as needles being found along the trail. They have investigated these calls and determined that most of the needles have not even been used.
- When weather and scheduling permits, the police department sends a patrol motorcycle down the trail on different shifts up until midnight.
- Pat asked if there is information that can be posted on the website about what people should do in certain situations. He mentioned that no one should take it upon himself or herself to handle hazardous waste or to confront anyone. They should call the police and take note that if they call from their cell phone, it will automatically go to the state police department.
- There is an ongoing investigation into the missing handicapped accessible bench along the new section of the trail. The bench had been unbolted and removed from the asphalt and was found in the woods. It was returned to the trail but then it was stolen again.
- There has been a decline in unleashed dogs reports along the trail.

Updates from Reno Deluzio presented by Pat Rosenthal:

- On a number of occasions I have asked the Police Dept. (thru Mike B.) for malfunction and repair data so I could start a conversation with Cross Alert regarding the reliability of their equipment. I also recommended that, if past data is not available, the Dept. start keeping the data going forward. Last week I received the attached spread sheet that covers the period from July 2013 to present. They also have sheets set up for FY2016 and FY2017.
- A cursory look at the data indicates:
- 1. The number of Cross Alert Flashing Beacon malfunctions (highlighted) are 10% of all traffic signal malfunctions listed and account for 7% of the total repair costs.
- 2. Based on the non- specific repair information, a potential systemic design or manufacturing deficiency with the Cross Alert equipment cannot be identified
- **Conclusion:**
- Discussion with Cross Alert regarding the reliability of their equipment is not warranted at this time based on the following:
- 1. The low percentage of their equipment malfunctions relative to the total traffic signal malfunctions over the same period.
- 2. Non-specific repair information.

Trail Remedial Work Status Report Summary (5/28/15)

- The Milford Upper Chares Trail Committee has embarked on a program, in conjunction with the Highway Dept and the Parks & Recreation Dept., to correct a number of structural and other deficiencies on the trail mostly on segments of the trail from Louisa Lake to the Milford Water Co. and from Beaver St. to the end of the I-495 overpasses.
-
- To date a total of 14 items have been identified as requiring remedial work, 10 of which are priority 1 items and 4 are priority 2 items. The Highway Department has issued work orders for 6 priority 1 items and for 1 priority 2 item (List attached).
-
- The optimum method of bank stabilization is the major issue still unresolved. Vegetative planting and sloped stone are the two methods under consideration.
-
- **New Item:** A purchase order has been issued for a new gate (of heavier construction) to replace the damaged gate at the end of Veterans Memorial Drive. The Highway Dept. will straighten the bent latch post lock box.

Updates presented by Pat Rosenthal, President:

- We received a request from Ashland and they are looking to start a Friends group. They have not responded to Pat's email.
Action: Pat will reach back out to them
- 2015 Trail Census was successful. There were 2,066 users counted on the trail on May 16, 2015 from 8am – 6pm.

Sat May 16, 2015		
Trailhead Location	# Users	% of Total
Louisa Lake	856	41%
Fino Field	654	32%
Hopkinton	379	18%
Rte 109	177	9%
Total	2066	100%

Reno shared the stats to the trail committee, the 1998 feasibility

Email From Reno / Bob Weidknecht May 30 & May 27th

Bob,

The 1998 Feasibility study done by MAPC predicted 2,500 users on a weekend day for the **fully-built** trail. This is only a 6.7 mile section of the then planned 26 mile trail. This far exceeds the expected usage. Well done Milford.

Robert E. Weidknecht, RLA, LEED AP
Senior Associate



144 Turnpike Road, Southborough, MA 01772

508.366.0560 ext. 4845 f: 508.366.4391

Update presented by Margaret Myatt on behalf of Tom Myatt, Treasurer: Total income: \$3,570.21, Total Expense: \$1,017.32 closing balance: \$20,769.76, Open spending authorizations: \$17,382.68, Uncommitted funds: \$3,387.08

Update presented by Mike Morrison, Vice President: Mike will be starting to work on additional TrailTalk Episodes once his schedule settles down. He has meetings with contractors about extending out the fence on the Main Street section to prevent travel overflow from the gas station.

Update presented by Katie Siciak, Secretary/ Social Media & Website: We have released the information about the trail census on our Facebook and Twitter pages as well as the website. Our Facebook followers are almost at 500. We have not had much interaction through the trail email but our website visitors has steadily grown since the winter.

Membership Committee/MCOD update (Margaret Myatt): 70 members to date

M&E Committee (Nancy Wojick): Nancy was away for the meeting but she sent Pat an update. She is wondering if we should set up a time to line the new portion of the trail. Bee Lines has done it in the past so we will ask Sheldon to contact them about it.

New Business: Mike presented an idea about trail cleanups. He suggested organizing a trail cleanup committee that meets up periodically during the year to keep it cleaner in between are set cleanups in the fall and spring. He suggested picking different portions of the trail each time. Margaret suggested having the adopters participating in periodic cleanups and have the general public involved in the bigger twice a year cleanups.

Motion: To table the small cleanups idea until the next meeting, seconded, approved.

Old Business: Hold an Adopter/Sponsor meet and greet to get them more involved and to see how they feel about potentially doing more cleanups through out the year.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, August 4, 2015

Motion to adjourn at 8:46pm.