

## Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail

Minutes for the Open Monthly Meeting – September 1, 2015

President Pat Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm

### In Attendance:

Members - Katie Siciak, Mike Morrison, Tom Myatt, Pat Rosenthal, Reno DeLuzio, Mark Tolpin, Nancy Wojick, Bill Kavanaugh, Gary Bonetti, Julie Morales, Guru Simran Kaur Khalsa-Bob, Harold Rhodes, Margaret Myatt, Dick Flooks, Gary Sanborn, Sheldon Moniz

Non-members – Ken Manzella, Dimitra E.

### Approval of Minutes:

**Motion:** Tom Myatt made a motion to approve meeting minutes, Reno Deluzio seconded, passed unanimously.

### Updates presented by Pat Rosenthal, President:

- We have had numerous cases of vandalism along the trail, specifically to some of the granite benches. The tops of the benches were knocked off.
- Sheldon has informed us that Bee Line will be available in two weeks to line the new portion of the trail. Pat talked to a woman from the Cross Fit about lining the trail with additional markers.
- Richard Speroni has written the trail that he'd like to step down as Webmaster. He believes that the website is outdated and recommends that the website needs to be updated
- Action: Form a website committee to work on updating the website. Katie and Julie volunteered to join the committee.
- Tentative date for the fall cleanup for November 7<sup>th</sup>, rain date for the following weekend.

### Guest Speaker from the Milford Commission on Disability presented:

- A proposal of upgrades that could be made along the trail was presented by Margaret Myatt and Dimitra and Harold Rhodes that detailed blind and hearing impaired improvements.
- A document was distributed at the meeting that recommends different ways to make the trail more accessible. The recommendations include making the website more accessible, additional handicapped benches, new kiosk that is accessible, rope guides, and an audio guide.
- A question was posed about the safety of those with disabilities, specifically about how to notify others to be aware that they use that area of the trail. The response was to add additional signage about the accessible portion.
- **Motion:** Reno made a motion to approve the Milford Commission on Disability's proposal, seconded by Nancy Wojick, passed unanimously.

### Updates presented by Reno Deluzio, Member:

- There is a lot by the rt. 85 section that Reno has proposed to develop an easement through the property. The property owner was agreeable in the past but has not been as responsive on this matter. Reno has tried several ways to take the property by eminent domain. Reno proposes to allocate funds from the Friends to pay for the legal fees for obtain property rights for the proposed easement.
- **Motion:**
  - Reno moves to rescind the motion of the May 5, 2015 meeting which allocated \$2,000 for legal fees for an easement over lot 6-0-8 to establish a connection from the Walden Woods condos to the trail, Mike Morrison seconded, majority approved.
  - Reno moves to Friends allocate up to \$4,000 for the purpose of funding engineering services to prepare an easement plan, an appraisal, and recording fees for the Walden Woods trail connection over lot 6-0-8 with the understanding that the Milford Upper Charles Trail Committee will fund up

to \$2,000 for accessibility enhancements as proposed by the Milford Commission on Disability, Mike Morrison seconded, majority approved.

**Update presented by Mike Morrison, Vice President:**

- He is scheduling new episodes with Milford TV. Trying to coordinate a time with the Holliston people to rerecord due to the audio not being usable with the initial recording.
- He has sent 4 separate emails to Cross Alert systems to gather the information but has not heard back yet.
- Deb Donaldson reached out about volunteer opportunities for cleanups of the trail. We reopened the discussion of having mini cleanups during the year versus having two scheduled larger cleanups. There are portions of the trail that do not have adopters that need to be cleaned. We don't want to take away the accountability of the adopters to clean their portions of the trail by having others clean up their areas at other times.
- Action: Mike will reach back out to Deb about getting a small cleanup group organized.

**Update presented by Tom Myatt, Treasurer:** Total Income: \$5,767.06, Total Expenses: \$2,040.06, Net Change: \$3727.00 Closing Balance: \$21943.87 Opening Spending Authorizations: \$16,241.94, Uncommitted Funds: \$5,701.93

**Update presented by Katie Siciak, Secretary/ Social Media & Website:**

- There have not been any inquiries through the website since the last meeting.
- There were 989 unique visits to the websites, 1,170 page loads. 907 first time visitors, and 82 returning visits.
- Information about the recent vandalism was submitted to a few local papers. I haven't seen anything picked up by them.

**Old Business:**

- At the last meeting, we voted to lift the moratorium for the granite benches. The first person on the waiting list for the benches, Susan, attended the meeting. There is another couple, the Joyce's that is looking to donate a bench but they have not indicated a specific location along the trail. Bob Nargi's daughter is on the wait list to donate a bench for Bob. The family requested that his bench be in the area of his grand daughter's. Sue Clark and Paul Trada is the third in line on the wait list. The next group is Zain Ridge apartments.
- Julie Morales asked if there was a possibility for one of the families on the wait list would want to donate one of the handicapped accessible benched with a placard on it. This would be okay If the family is willing to have one of those benches.
- *Action:* Margaret is going to get in touch with Sue Clark about a bench.

**Motion:** Tom moves to change the previous bench moratorium from 4 benches to 5. The moratorium will be in place after the 5 benches. Reno seconded, approved unanimously.

**Officer Elections:**

Pat Rosenthal nominates Mike Morrison for President, Reno Deluzio seconded, passed unanimously.

Pat Rosenthal nominates Tom Myatt for Treasurer, Reno Deluzio seconded, passed unanimously.

Pat Rosenthal nominates Katie Siciak for Secretary, Reno Deluzio seconded, passed unanimously.

Dick Flocks nominates Julie Morales for Vice President, seconded, passed unanimously.

**New Business:**

**Motion:** Julie Morales moves to allocate up to \$200.00 to purchase external hard drive to back up the files for the Friends, Mike Morrison seconded, passed.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, October 1, 2015 Motion to adjourn at 8:28pm.