

Minutes

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail

Minutes for the Open Monthly Meeting – August 2, 2016

President Mike Morrison called to order at 7:03 pm

In Attendance

Members: Mike Morrison, Julianne Bonvino, Catherine Guido, Guru Khalsa-Bob, Nancy Wojick, Reno DeLuzio, Pat Rosenthal

Non-Members: Carolyn Barthel, Rand Barthel, Tom Zimmerman

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Nancy moved to approve the minutes of June meeting, Pat seconded, passed unanimously.

Updates presented by Mike Morrison, President

- Mike met with Reno re: trail inspection initiative for trail defects.
- Curoni property issue has been resolved.
- Rob Mitchell wanted to get access trail from neighborhood and he would continue talks with homeowner, we haven't heard back.
- Trail talk – due to scheduling, still working on it.
- Need to discuss sign on area attractions board on 495.
- Mt. Pleasant Street construction completed.

Update from Tom Myatt, Treasurer

- July Treasurer Report:

Total Income: \$2,530.63

Total Expense: \$3,036.38

Closing Balance: \$18,677.69

Open Spending Authorizations: \$10,240.54

Uncommitted Available Funds: \$8,437.15

Open Spending Authorizations:

Authorized: \$13,700.00

Expended: \$3,459.46

Remaining: \$10,240.54

Update presented by Julianne Bonvino, Secretary

- One new member in July, current total 67. Membership is at its lowest in years, and discussion ensued with ideas on how to boost membership. Reno suggested having a physical presence to get new members at the trail – a membership event. Cat suggested a family-oriented event such as an egg hunt, chalk coloring, bike parade. Pat talked about what they did early on – night hikes, owl hikes. Other ideas: engage our sponsors, QR code in kiosk, toll booth type event, cookout or something for people to attend, engage the Youth Center for awareness and/or trail projects, maintenance work, fundraising text to xxx to support trail, 5k race. Put membership info in kiosk, adoption and sponsorship. **Action** item: Mike will look into banners and text donations.

Updates:

- Pat Rosenthal gave an adopter update. – Cub Scout Pack 67 out of Sacred Heart Church has become a new adopter. Tom Zimmerman is the Cubmaster and the Scouts will use this opportunity for community service, care for environment and part of new scouting program. They have adopted the last available section (#5) which is the previous Wegman's stretch, near Shadowbrook, near Masons' section. Pat motioned that we approve Cub Scout Pack 67 of Milford as new adopter. Reno seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Adoption is now full.

- Catherine Guido gave a sponsorship update. There are 2 new since April. Renee Garments needs to get their image up on the website. Cat had reworked sponsor registration form, as the old form is currently on the website. Pat had reworked the form back in March, but it was never posted to the website. New form needs to be posted ASAP. **Action** item: Cat will review the latest version to see if any further changes should be made.
- **Action** item: Cat will follow up with Julie on website status.

Guest Speakers:

- Carolyn and Rand Barthel gave an overview of the Spectra Access Northeast pipeline project. Spectra doing projects in segments and the one impacting Milford is last of 3. The pipeline from Medway to West Boylston which includes 9 towns. Also pipeline from Medway east thru 9 towns to Stoughton. Spectra proposing that we pay with pipeline tax through our utility bills. They may be presenting to Selectman in September. We will consider publicizing the event.

New Business

- Area Attraction Board – short discussion on this, will look into it further and revisit at a later date.
- Hannaford Bags 4 a Cause – Friends will get \$1 for every blue bag sold in the month of August. Cat noted they did not have a big supply of these bags in the store. **Action** item: Julianne will follow up to make sure there are bags there.
- Trail Inspection Initiative – We need to have a routine check on these 3 issues: flashing beacons/lights working all the time, locks on gates operational at all times, and vegetation at crossings cut back at all times. Mike and Reno built a list of all issues, and the 3 issues above should be kept separate from the other ongoing list. **Action** item: Pat will send to adopters so they can do their part. Reno said we have a fundamental problem and the Parks Department is not complying. Parks has to do all the maintenance, but when they are not, we need some way of getting reports of what's not being done. We need to do inspections and reports back to Parks. If Mike won't respond, we need to go to Parks Commission about these issues. We need to build a case and get a routine way of checking those 3 issues and keeping notes of how long and when they are not working. Pat suggests first of month take turns to inspect the 3 issues. Parks Department is in charge of cutting vegetation at crossings, but they have only been doing it when they have extra staff on hand. It is too dangerous for volunteers to be doing that. Highway Department was supposed to handle erosion issues. Needs further discussion.
- 1 2 3 markers on trail – Reno said for 1 ½ years they have been chasing landscapers regarding slopes. Got recommendation and wasted 6 months trying to get price and never showed up. Found another guy and is capable, 4 months went by and sent request for quote. Still waiting for price and commitment for September.
- Connection from trail to conservation land concluded. Land taken by eminent domain. All recorded at registry of deeds. List of expenses: \$850 for engineering services, \$1000 for appraisal, and \$150 for the registration which Reno paid out of pocket. Nancy made a motion to reimburse Reno for \$150, Pat seconded the motion, passed unanimously.
- Two sign problems – Reno said the signs were redone on Mt. Pleasant Street and he will try to correct the signs on Veterans Memorial Drive. The Highway Department has to put the yellow stripe from Mt. Pleasant St. up.
- Sponsorship sign – Pat was approached regarding businesses wanting to put up a sign board to list the businesses on trail – Pizza Palace, etc. Pat suggested signs similar to adopter signs and maybe info in kiosks. Mike suggested a rotating list of sponsors, i.e. if you like the trail, please consider patronizing trail sponsors. Reno suggested this may invite vandalism. Cat suggested a map of the trail with those businesses on it. Needs further discussion.
- Cat suggested we get more visibility with Facebook page by asking people to send in picture on trail with stories, experiences of pets/humans. Needs further discussion.

Old Business

- Nancy: 2 new adopter signs up, and heavily mowing and cutting brush has taken place. Mike identified problem areas on Hayward Street. Metal structures may be on private property so they are looking into it. We will need to

ask permission to move it if on property, either they remove or town removes. **Action** item: Mike will follow up. Gypsy moth mess was cleaned up. Pat noted a sewer cap with the side eroded beyond parking spaces – could be dangerous.

Next Meeting will be Tuesday, September 6th at the Milford Senior Center.

Motion to adjourn was made at 9:08 pm.