

Minutes

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail

Minutes for the Open Monthly Meeting – November 1, 2016

President Mike Morrison called to order at 7:05 pm

In Attendance

Members: Mike Morrison, Julianne Bonvino, Tom Myatt, Margaret Myatt, Nancy Wojick, Pat Rosenthal, Bill Kavanaugh, Dick Flooks, Guru Khalsa-Bob, Denise Simoneau, Gary Bonetti, Reno DeLuzio, William Sanborn

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Tom Myatt moved to approve the minutes of October meeting, Dick Flooks seconded, passed unanimously.

Updates presented by Mike Morrison, President

- Mike recorded promo for November 5 Trail clean up on Milford TV which can also be viewed on YouTube. Promo was posted on the Friends' Facebook page.
- We declined services from Mobilecause (donations by cell) because of the costs.
- Website update: Hosting agreement expired 10/10, site down since 10/11. Mike called new web designer and was told that no design had been picked out yet and no work had been done. Mike picked a design for new site and sent list of URLs to transfer to new design. We should have something by end of week or next week at the latest.

Update from Tom Myatt, Treasurer

There was a large change in income for October: from \$3100 to \$4800 from sponsor fees. Thank you to Dick for collecting checks. Membership fees: \$335, Hannaford Helps \$56, for a \$1700 increase in month. There were only \$35 in expenses.

- September Treasurer Report:

Total Income: \$4,813.97
Total Expense: \$3,264.65
Closing Balance: \$20,732.76
Open Spending Authorizations: \$11,707.27
Uncommitted Available Funds: \$9,025.49
Open Spending Authorizations:
 Authorized: \$15,245.00
 Expended: \$3,537.73
 Remaining: \$11,707.27

Update presented by Julianne Bonvino, Secretary

- 64 members – a few renewals and one new member.

Updates:

- Winter use committee: Last year Bill Sanborn circulated memo on use of trail for winter. Starting over for this season, needs to finish letter and is open for ideas on how to communicate. Try to get volunteer who may have snowmobile to try this out this year to lay down a path, pack down snow for snow shoeing, cross country skiing. If we want device for dragging to pack the snow, he can revisit pricing. Last year it was just under \$1000. Pat suggested maybe someone could put one together, build one, cub scouts, etc. Reno suggested reaching out to a snow mobile club. Margaret suggested offering money for fuel. Dick asked how we distinguish a snowmobile from THE snowmobile just so others don't go on it on a regular basis. We would need to post an authorized vehicle sign. Nancy said we could get SignsPlus to make it and it's not expensive. Reno said we need to get Parks Department approval before moving forward. Dick will ask his neighbor if there is any interest or if he knows anyone. Pat is concerned with tracks because it will be cumbersome to walkers. Pat suggested reaching out to Holliston for their long stretches. Mike suggested Hopkinton end since the parking lot gets cleared out. Bill doesn't think we should restrict ourselves, first year, we should try out all sections. Nancy said areas near Shadowbrook and Zain Ridge get icy. **ACTION:** Dick will reach out to his neighbor to see if there is interest.

Bill will do research on sled made in NH and other devices that mountain biking associations may make that leaves corrugated trails for mountain bikes. Denise asked if the Parks Department may have a roller. Tom said if it will open up use of trail, we have the money for the sled, and it could be \$1000 well invested. This could be a good use for our funds. Committee could be Dick Flooks, Bill Sanborn, Jerry Messenger. Reno made a **Motion** to create snowmobile subcommittee and not to exceed \$1200 for the sled, contingent upon Parks Department approval, Gary seconded, passed unanimously. Tom made a **Motion** that we allocate up to \$100 for reimbursement for snowmobile fuel for winter use, Reno seconded, passed unanimously. Pat suggested the subcommittee put guidelines in place for snow amounts and at what point the snowmobile would go out on the trail. The subcommittee should decide which areas to groom. Bill and Jerry would be willing to speak with a Holliston contact. They may have bylaws that govern use of trail.

- Trail adoption update from Pat Rosenthal: All sections are adopted. Some adopters didn't know where their sections started and ended so she used the odometer on her bike to fit pieces together for each of the adopters' sections. Some areas were crowded so she carved up sections to make it equitable. Pat drafted up a document with the adopter section info and will make changes as needed, and when final it can be published. For fall clean up, You Inc. has been out. Cub Scouts supposed to come out on 22nd but it rained that day and they haven't rescheduled a new day yet. Pat needs to meet with them to show them their section. Pat said for new adopters or new contacts of adopters, it's helpful for them to know expectations, show them their section, and show them their sign. Some of our long-term adopters clean up on regular basis. Zain Ridge wants to continue to be an adopter. They sent their template for signage and the sign is being made. They also would like to put a bench in near power line area.
- Sponsorship update from Dick: nothing new this month
- Maintenance and enhancement update from Nancy: Mike Bresciani said we will be getting a section of the shed at Fino Field for Friends' storage. Depressions have been filled near Zain Ridge. Area behind Consigli's not fixed yet. Broken fence near Litter Critter section. Reno said there are bent signs here and there. Nancy said the signs have been moved on Main Street so we can see blinking sign. **ACTION:** Nancy will report the bent signs to town and also have them fix/replace downed sign near 495 entrance, northbound ramp.
- Update from Reno: the bank stabilization work came out very well. Regarding stone dust refurbishment, Scott Reno and Mike met 7 months ago and Mike said he would take care of it. Reno wrote up RFQ with Bruce Roy Landscaping. They will walk trail and to show issues, get a quote and see if it's cheaper for Mike's guys to do it. There is money in Reno's account and Parks account to do this. Reno met with Hopkinton trail group – Eli Post and Jay Moran. They said they can't find a way to cost effectively connect to our parking lot. Residents protesting bike trail connection so not sure we will ever be able to connect. Selectman didn't get behind it so they lost two decades on this.
- Mike had contact with Mass Walking Tour, a group that passes through towns with musical performances. They asked Mike to write a letter in support of their tour to the Milford Cultural Council. There is no commitment from Friends, just official support to Cultural Council.

New Business

- Bill K prepared a sketch drawing of Louisa Lake "grove area" between picnic area and dike. He would like to clear out all the brush (and leave trees) in that area. Will go before Board of Selectman to get approval and they would mandate people to do the work. In doing that we may be able to add a few more benches. The new dam and dikes raised the level of the water and took lots of fishing area away. By opening up these areas, they will have more area to fish and it would enhance the area. Reno was going to suggest it could be a project for scouts for walking area out to peninsula. The Friends are in favor of this idea. Tom suggested that we don't mention adding more benches.
- Benches: Mike Shane (Thanks to Yanks, etc.) approached Mike about having a bench put in for a Milford veteran who lost his life. Mike told him about bench waiting list. Mike S had the idea of putting it near Italian Vets (not on the trail). Mike S was looking into it to see if Italian Vets would be ok with it. Nothing to do with trail, but just ideas. We would put him in contact with the bench company so it will be the same design as others.
- Mike had an idea for membership drive: Giving Tuesday – day after Cyber Monday – movement where nonprofits can advocate giving back. We could tie in a membership drive to this. Maybe multiple Facebook posts leading up to the day. Fun facts type posts to educate. Pat feels we would be competing with other

charitable organizations and we would not be the priority. Mike is trying to generate more interest in the trail. Margaret doesn't feel like it matches with a charity day. We could provide more info posts on Facebook. Pat challenged all to submit 3 fund facts to be posted on Facebook page. Giving Tuesday is a register and the Friends could be listed as a local organization to donate to.

- Kindness Rocks program – Reno mentioned there are stones with kind messages on them appearing in different places like the Hopkinton section and near Milford Catholic against chain link fence. We can do this until Parks Department complains.
- New quote from Swenson Granite this week from Pat: top and legs same price, lettering is \$5 per letter, drill holes went up. She sent Sue Taylor a note. Hasn't communicated to Nargi Family yet. Waiting to hear from Trotta family. Zain Ridge was shown the quote. Holliston bought 15 all at once. Pat asked if we gave them a deposit if they could hold them for us, they said if they got damaged we would be responsible. There would be a price break at 10. Pricing: \$700/750, plus installation, plus engraving.

Old Business:

- Denise manned the Meet & Greet at Senior Center in October – not very well attended. JR. League, Friends, Shine, Library. Not worth our while to do again.

Mike made **Motion** to cancel December meeting and re-adjourn January 3rd. Nancy seconded, passed unanimously.

Next Meeting is **Tuesday, January 3st** at the Milford Senior Center.

Mike made a motion to adjourn at 8:51 pm, Pat seconded, passed unanimously.