

Minutes

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail

Minutes for the Open Monthly Meeting – 05/02/17

President Mike Morrison called to order at 7:03 pm

In Attendance

Members: Mike Morrison, Julianne Bonvino, Margaret Myatt, Brett Staupe, Gary Bonetti, Bill Kavanaugh, Reno DeLuzio, Dick Flooks, Catherine Guido, Anthony Landry, Pat Rosenthal

Non-members: Liz Harkins

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Margaret moved to approve the minutes of April meeting. Pat seconded, all in favor, passed unanimously

Updates presented by Mike Morrison, President

- Website links fixed on sponsor page.
- Received email from Lydia Dorey of Evergreen Center of Milford and they want to adopt a section of the trail. We have no openings as of now but they can go out and do a trail clean up in the meantime.
- Mike called Ben Demo last month about the Milford Rotary Club's outdoor day event which they want to have on June 24th. Ben wants to have the Friends involved and also to feature the trail in some way for their event. Ben asked Mike to come to the Rotary's next meeting to represent the Friends and discuss ideas for how the trail can be involved in their event. Unfortunately, they had to cancel their June meeting, which was their next planned meeting prior to the event. Mike will call Ben to see if they still want to meet and discuss their outdoor day event

Update from Tom Myatt, Treasurer – presented by Margaret Myatt

- April Treasurer Report:

Total Income: \$1,573.48

Total Expense: \$1,544.48

Closing Balance: \$20,781.58

Open Spending Authorizations: \$10,863.71

Uncommitted Available Funds: \$9,917.87

Open Spending Authorizations:

Authorized: \$15,800.00

Expended: \$ 4,936.29

Remaining: \$10,863.71

Update presented by Julianne Bonvino, Secretary

- 3 new members since beginning of the year, 68 current members

Updates:

- Liz Harkins from Milford TV, is looking to show how the trail can be more beneficial for community. What direction would we want to go in? Catherine asked if we would have to produce a certain amount of episodes or just special events. Liz suggested something less frequent or just regular update of minutes, debrief meetings. Pat suggested recognizing the 10th anniversary of the trail. Mike suggested a focus on the accessibility improvements around Louisa Lake. Mike asked Margaret about the status of the accessibility improvements. Harold is talking with the Parks Department and Highway Department and he thinks the town workers can do the work but not until June. Liz offered to do specials (i.e. 10th anniversary, clean up days) and help produce promos for the event and cover the events themselves. Pat asked about talking with some of our adopters. Catherine suggested producing content on safety, rules, guidelines, bike safety, seasonal safety, dog safety. Bill said they

were asked about filming one of the meetings a long time ago but for some reason we were advised not to. Mike thought the consensus at the time was it wouldn't have much appeal, and the group agreed. Liz said someone could read the minutes to give an update or Pat suggested before an upcoming meeting, review what we did last month and highlight what's coming up at our next meeting. Currently on Milford TV, the bulletin board shows two slides for Friends: our monthly meeting notices and any additional events i.e. clean up. Any ideas for Milford TV should be funneled through Mike.

- Reno updated the group on Trail committee. We have been having problems with flashing beacons since the beginning. He analyzed the data and the issue is they aren't getting enough solar exposure to charge the batteries which is why they aren't always working. They are putting together options and costs. Trail committee will fund repairs. Stone dust replenishment and regrading – low bid from 1 of 3 contractors to proceed. There is enough money in their budget to support that as well. Walden Woods connection across 85 – Mass Highway has no objection to striping and signs and overhead blinking light. Reconfigure signage at Hayward Street to end of Veterans Memorial Drive – worked out new plan. Highway Department started and should be finished this week. Stop signs will be moved at Big Y and Hayward St. Fino Field [Intersection](#) directional signs will be ~~moved~~ [installed](#) also. Sacred Heart Church island configuration – Beals and Thomas have new configuration plan and can now work on signage. Dick noted the police are aware of Interstate Battery trash dumping and are keeping an eye on the area. They are also adding another rider to patrol the trail. There is a lot of trash being dumped in the Prezo's to Zain Ridge area, lots of coffee cups and alcohol nips.
- Committee reports – 10th anniversary committee – Brett asked what we want for an event: he's thinking BBQ, bouncy house, 5k run, looking for input. Sheldon suggested food trucks. Pat suggested we need to pick a date and determine what kind of permits, etc. we need from the town before we do all the legwork. Brett suggested Town Park for the location. Fino field was suggested by members, as it is on the trail and ample parking. We need to check athletic schedules first to get a date. Pat will write up a bullet list on what we had to do in the past as far as permitting, insurance, etc. We need a goal for the event, is it 10 year anniversary or membership drive. Sheldon expressed having t-shirts made up. Catherine suggested free bike helmets, band. Dick confirmed that a helmet grant has to be submitted in January, we are too late for this year. Dick suggested asking the community for suggestions on what they would like to have at the event via Milford TV and Facebook. Reno said we would need 6-8 people dedicated to this project or it won't happen and has to be planned at least 6-8 months in advance. Brett suggested the event be next year. Catherine suggested road race could be our event no food trucks, more focused activity, and we wouldn't need a big committee for that. Mike thinks it should be bigger than a race. A big event would have to be next year. Pat suggested piggybacking on Celebrate Milford event. **ACTION:** Subcommittee reach out to different town groups for collaboration efforts.
- Adoption update: As far as the cleanup – Italian Vets, Renee Garments and Senior Center section not cleaned up. Alternatives, EMC and Consigli cleaned up.
- Sponsorship update: website page updated. No new sponsors. **ACTION:** Catherine will send Julianne a list for renewal reminders to be sent out. Pat asked for the contact at Planet Aid.
- Bill and Nancy placed new signs on kiosk in Hopkinton, Fino Field and Louisa Lake and CVS. Nancy got the signs for free.
- Mike starting initiative to share maintenance list. Reno noted we are missing the little stuff – pickets missing, graffiti on fence behind Prezo's, etc. There are not enough eyes looking at these issues. Anthony said the average person sees it but doesn't know where to report it. Adopters aren't reporting anything. We should assist with the small stuff and get volunteers to help Highway Department. We need to ask Nancy to follow up on the maintenance list issues. Dick asked who is managing the people to fix the maintenance issues. Dick suggested sending the maintenance list to Mike Bresciani. The trail isn't a priority for the Parks Department. Mike will send the list to Mike B once a month. Brett asked if we can make a case that parks isn't helping us. We don't have data points as far as trail users, we can't prove if people are spending money in Milford when they are here. We don't have enough to make a case, we will start building one. Bill asked why Parks Department can't be designated to jot down trail issues and send to Friends. Reno said they won't do it, they are too busy. Pat suggested we publicize that we need help with issues being brought forward to us. **ACTION:** Julianne will post something on Facebook about trail users letting Friends know about issues on the trail so we are aware.

New Business

- Brett asked for a small maintenance budget (i.e. nuts, bolts, etc.). Mike said there is a budget for Trail Improvements and the small expenses could be taken from there.
- Highway Department still working on the sinkhole at Dilla Street trail crossing.
- Ongoing issues with open dumpsters at Aldi and CVS, Interstate Battery. This is a Board of Health issue. We need a formal process to send a letter to Board of Health and town administrator to alert them so they can address. **ACTION:** Mike will send list monthly to Parks Department and send a letter to the Board of Health regarding open dumpsters.
- Central storage area: We need a central storage place for tables, chairs, maintenance items, signs, boxes, etc. Mike will look around town for rental space to see options. Board and officers would have keys. **ACTION:** Dick will check prices for a storage unit and also a steel pod like the one at Louisa Lake.
- Pat asked if we could set another date for clean up since not many showed up Senior Center to Fino Field where trails meet.
- **Motion** on behalf of Tom for D&O insurance. Anthony moved to approve \$982 for D&O insurance, no change from last year. All in favor, passed unanimously.

Next Meeting is Tuesday, June 6th at the Senior Center.

Pat made a motion to adjourn at 8:57 pm, Reno seconded, passed unanimously.