

Minutes

Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail

Minutes for the monthly open meeting - April 2, 2019

In attendance

Members: Mike Morrison, Catherine Guido, Bill Sanborn, Guru Simran Khalsa-Bob, Reno DeLuzio, Harold Rhodes, Sandy Comastra

Non-members:

7:08 Call to order

7:09 Cat moves to approve the minutes from March 2019, Bill seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

7:10 President's report. Mike updated the membership list with the information from the PayPal donations from 2018 and from 2019 to date. Mike heard from Reno that a trail user had emailed the Friends, hadn't heard back from the Friends, and so had reached out to Reno for a response, who forwarded it to Mike. Mike had replied to the person and invited them to speak at the May meeting; no response to the invitation as of the meeting. Mike proposed setting up a schedule whereby the officers would routinely check the Friends' email inbox for trail questions. Cat replied that she'd rather have the Trail emails forwarded to the officers rather than checking another inbox. Mike will look into the possibility of setting up email forwards for the officers.

7:14 Vice President's report. Cat displayed an unusual email that she received in her personal inbox related to the trail. After some discussion, she decided to ignore the email. CCD leaders sent a Facebook message to the Friends about planting "flower bombs" - wildflower seeds in a biodegradable gel packet - along the trail. Cat replied that the Friends have no objection to planting these flowers.

Cat received the new Friends' table banner from Nancy Wojick and displayed it to the group. All present indicated their acceptance of the banner.

Cat designed letterhead for use by the Friends in sending thank-you letters to donors. She's working on sending letters to all who had donated through Paypal in 2018 and had not yet received a thank you.

Cat presented a flyer for use on the forthcoming trail cleanup/town beautification day. From the following discussion two changes were recommended: a note to indicate the check-in table at the commuter parking lot and a box where people can write notes for the Friends. Cat will make the changes and also produce a laminated version so that the Friends can track where people are sent for cleanup.

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Cat displayed a few photos of the Louisa Lake area as a visual aid for some damage to the trail pavement markings she noticed while out on the trail recently. Mike will add the issues to the maintenance log and Cat will send the photos to Nancy.

7:41 Treasurer's report. Bill Sanborn presented a motion to reimburse Nancy for \$55 for the cost of the new banner. Cat seconded the motion. Motion passed, 6-0.

7:43 Harold Rhodes presented an update on the trail accessibility project. The current plan is to have the project finished this summer and a grand opening event in July. A new path from the accessible parking spots to the gazebo at Louisa Lake has been installed. Locator beacons will be installed at various points along the trail to guide users of their "walking tour" phone app. Harold will provide a document to the Friends for maintenance of the accessibility improvements when the project is complete.

8:10 No update from Reno Deluzio.

8:11 Discussion of trail maintenance. Sandy has hostas to donate for use on the cleanup day. The group discussed options for the planting locations, settling on the mulch bed at Louisa Lake. Sandy suggested that a small group of the Friends dig holes in advance of the cleanup day and fill with topsoil due to the unknown composition of the existing soil in the bed.

8:29 Cat proposed that Sandy, Mike, Bill, Guru, and herself meet at the mulch bed on 4/25 at 6 PM to prep the bed. Sandy will buy some topsoil. Bill will send the Friends' tax-exempt certificate to Sandy for use in purchasing the topsoil.

8:39 New business. Mike will research email forwarding options as discussed earlier during the President's report.

8:44 Sandy mentioned that she had difficulty in using the donation form on the Friends' website. Cat tried the donation form during the meeting and nothing went wrong. Sandy will re-try the form at home.

8:49 Bill moves to adjourn, Sandy seconded, motioned passed 6-0.