

Friends of Columbia Greenway Rail Trail, Inc.
Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2020

Call to Order

Acting Chair

Roll Call

Chair

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairman - Carmel Steger | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dir. Of Membership – Donna Green | <input type="checkbox"/> At Large – Open |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair – open | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dir. Of Education – Don Podolski | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At Large – Bob Hamel |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Treasurer – John Tassinari | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dir of Resource Dev – Jonathan McHatton | At Large – Open |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clerk – Chris Steger | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At Large – Reenie Hamel | At Large - Dan Call |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dir. Of Maint – Bob Pac | At Large – Paul Cacolice | Mark Cressotti – City Engineer |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dir. Of Maint – George Hart | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At Large – Carolyn Cacolice | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Bard - WPD |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Oliver - visitor | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kate Phelon – Chamber of Commerce |

Meeting called to order.

Previous meeting minutes moved to approve by Bob H, seconded by John. Approved.

Reports of City Officers (Mark Cressotti)

A. Not present

Kevin Bard

A. COVID-19 sign discussion for trail, signs have been put out, some were quickly damaged, suggestion that board members using the trail monitor and install signs as needed, significant graffiti noted in Broad Street area, if graffiti is seen contact Kevin on his work cell (413.246.3795) or email at k.bard@cityofwestfield.org, Carm to contact J. Dog Hauling concerning assistance in removing graffiti.

Director of Maintenance (Bob Pac/George Hart)

Report shared as meeting pre-reads, trail usage has increased significantly over the last month or so, counts were provided in report, Donna is looking for graphics on bicycle passing etiquette and spacing guidelines, suggestion to add some signage about removing your dog waste, Bob is volunteering for mask distribution, discussion about trail spacing during high use times, Jonathan to check with Councilor Matthews-Kane for feedback on trail use.

Public Participation

Kate mentioned she is available to distribute masks, attends weekly Westfield Emergency Management Agency calls, contact her if you want something brought forward.

Chair (Carmel Steger)

Mass Bike events have been rescheduled, looking for a FOCGRT member to be a liaison with MassBike (Jonathan subsequently volunteered), interview on Western Mass TV to discuss completion of the final section of the trail, good feedback from people about the interview, black bridge rehab contractor entered project into a trade magazine contest, nice article about the passion for working on a historical bridge so many were interested in seeing completed, Earth Day activities have been postponed until the fall.

Vice Chair

Vacant position

Treasurer's Report (Carmel)

Two \$25 dollar donations, 5 bricks ordered.

Director of Planning and Development Report

Having discussions with councilor Matthews-Kane about trail use, looking into touchless crosswalk signs.

Director of Education (Don)

Black bridge dinner cancelled.

Director of Membership

Three new family memberships received and were acknowledged, four new people signed up for the newsletter, rail use traffic data will be added to newsletter, John has a gallery of photos about construction, discussion about how to get more memberships, suggestion to offer payment options for those who may need it.

Nominating Committee

Three open position remain.

At Large:

No comments.

GRR Update:

Planning proceeding, plans are changing due to COVID-19.

Old Business:

May 9 was supposed to be Mayor's ride.

Looking into bicycle related movies at the Westfield library.

FOCGRT Board members' pictures – please to John.

Bike week is May 9 – 17, 2020. Need to start developing plans for events.

New Business:

Next meeting is Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at Greater Westfield YMCA or conference call.

Motion to adjourn by Bob H, seconded by Chris, adjourned.