

Friends of Columbia Greenway Rail Trail, Inc.
Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2019

Call to Order

Acting Chair

Roll Call

Clerk

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acting Chairman - Carmel Steger | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dir. Of Membership – Donna Green | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At Large – Bengt-Olaf Schneider |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair – open | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dir. Of Education – Don Podolski | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At Large – Bob Hamel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer – Joe Giffune | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dir of Resource Dev – Jonathan McHatton | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At Large – John Tassinari |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clerk – Chris Steger | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At Large – Reenie Hamel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At Large - Dan Call |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dir. Of Maint – Bob Pac | <input type="checkbox"/> At Large – | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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"/> Paul Cacolice | <input type="checkbox"/> Kate Phelon – Chamber of Commerce |

Meeting called to order at Westfield YMCA at 6:30 pm.

Public Participants: Bob Madison, Bill Richardson, Mike Ernst, Susan Chaisson, Mark Caisson

Bob Madison:

State of Massachusetts has money budgeted for multipurpose trails, Mass. Trails is the funding source, what discussions have occurred about having one name for trail that passes through five towns?, what is the plan for rail trail north of the Westfield River

Previous meeting minutes: Jonathan moved to approve, seconded by Reenie. Motion passed.

Reports of City Officers (Mark Cressotti)

Central Section – Mass DOT to issue Notice to Proceed issued, Resident Engineer appointed, pre-construction meeting with contractor (N.E. Infrastructure) is scheduled.

Western Ave – work has ceased for season, Eastern phase (Lloyd's Hill to Hospital) moving forward, discussion about how to get from hospital to rail trail in downtown.

Southampton Rd – Mass DOT looking into creating a multi-use trail along Southampton Rd in 2021

North of River – several routes being investigated including crossing several dams in the WHS area

Kevin Bard

Discussion about trail vandalism, WPD has a camera available for areas subject to vandalism, this method has resulted in apprehensions in other areas of the city

Acting Chair (Carmel Steger)

Carmel, Donna and Jonathan are attending an event for non-profits and people looking to join non-profit groups, need some ideas about how to increase memberships in FOCGRT

Vice Chair

Vacant position

Treasurer's Report (Carmel)

Latest accounting sent out to board members previous to the meeting, discussion about hiring a firm to manage Treasurer's role until a person can be recruited, John T. to get a proposal for Quick Notes install on Board computer used for Treasurer role

Director of Planning and Resources Report

FOCGRT awarded a \$500 grant for rail trail signage, attended a Mass Bike meeting in Florence, MA, Big Y and Stop and Shop community bag in their queue, FOCGRT will be notified several months in advance

Director of Maintenance (Bob Pac/George Hart)

Attended FVRT annual meeting, FVRT is not applying a correction factor to counters used on trails, George to contact Councilor Figgy to get support of DPW for root intrusion issue

Director of Education

Santiago's Restaurant to install bike rack with FOCGRT logo on it in front of building

Director of Membership

24 emails collected and 1 membership received at Pumpkin Fest, Noonan Energy is now a corporate sponsor, currently there are 28 paid members and five corporations, discussion about how to extend awareness of FOCGRT, suggestion made to contact school principals to share with staff and students, all board members should send John T a picture for web site

Nominating Committee

Ballot being compiled for elections in December

At Large:

No comments.

Old Business:

How should FOCGRT best utilize bike racks donated by Dan L.

New Business:

GRR fundraising opportunity – minimum of 12 people needed to run event, last year had 200 riders, collected about \$3000 plus sponsor donations, Paul, Bob, Reenie, Jonathan and Donna agreed to meet with Don to review in more detail.

Northside route – Dan, John T, Don and Chris agreed to meet with Mark about options for a northern bike route

Next meeting is Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at the Shaker Farms Country Club.
Do we want to change the December date due to Christmas? Yes

Motion made to adjourn meeting by Dan, second by Don, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.