

**Friends of Columbia Greenway Rail Trail, Inc.**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 23, 2018**

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairman – Joe Giffune      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dir. Of Membership – Alice Flyte | <input type="checkbox"/> At Large – Bengt-Olaf Schneider              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair – Carmel Steger  | <input type="checkbox"/> Dir. Of Planning & Dev – Ashley Eaton       | <input type="checkbox"/> At Large – Open                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer – Eric Bressler              | <input type="checkbox"/> Dir of Resource Dev – Open                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At Large – John Tassinari         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clerk – Chris Steger        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donna Green                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At Large - Dan Call               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dir. Of Maint – Bob Pac     | <input type="checkbox"/> At Large – Mike Young                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Mark Cressotti                               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dir. Of Maint – George Hart | <input type="checkbox"/> At Large – Don Podolski                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Cacolice                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lieutenant Eric Hall - WPD  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul Cacolice - Guest            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kate Phelon – Chamber of Commerce |

Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm at Westfield YMCA.

Previous meeting minutes: Dan Call moved to approve, seconded by John. Motion passed.

Eric Hall

Issues have come up with people accessing a ladder on the new railroad bridge. A better barrier needs to be erected to prevent access. Minor vandalism has occurred on the rail bridge. WPD is applying for a grant for enforcement of pedestrian and bicycle safety. There was good success in previous years, particularly at Shaker Road. [WestfieldPD.org](http://WestfieldPD.org) has a link for reporting vandalism.

Chair (Joe Giffune)

Meeting with Co-Chair and city to review gifting policy for trail and company advertising on the trail and liability insurance when holding events on rail trail.

Vice Chair (Carmel Steger)

Speaking to Westfield Women's Club on November 13th.

Treasurer's Report (Joe Giffune)

Eric is having a hard time making Tuesday FOCGRT meetings due to family conflict. Joe will work with Eric to get a financial report out.

Director of Planning and Resources Report (Ashley Eaton)

No report

Director of Maintenance (Bob Pac/George Hart)

Hard copy report sent to members. The contractor will be replacing the planter at Shaker Road which was damaged during construction work. Drainage improvement project is progressing. Discussion about trail count results and comparison to Southwick numbers. Traffix data was reviewed.

Director of Membership (Alice Flyte)

Listened to a webinar about bike tourism (cycletimeHQ.com). Glow walk on Wednesday (note: great turnout and beautiful moon rise). Next year's Mayor's Ride will be the week before the 350<sup>th</sup> birthday bash in the city. Discussion about the FOCGRT setting up a bike valet holding area during downtown festivals.

#### Westfield 350 (George Hart)

Event dates are May 17, 18 & 19 2019. FOCGRT plans to sponsor a bike rodeo, scavenger hunt, slow bike ride and yoga on the esplanade (YMCA is willing to assist with yoga). Park and Recreation Department should be contacted for a permit in the parks. Police cadets may be interested in assisting with bike rodeo.

#### Kate Phelon:

Chamber of Commerce is holding quarterly downtown business meetings and she would like to extend an invitation to FOCGRT to attend. Next meeting is the third Monday in January (21<sup>st</sup>) at First United Methodist Church. Meeting will be posted on Chambers Facebook page. A conference is being held in Hartford concerning the economic benefits of a rail trail and bicycle friendly town. Joe and Kate will attend the Council meeting to encourage members to attend.

#### Dan Call

Attended Chamber breakfast on September 21 and observed an e-bike presentation. Attended a NPO meeting and reports all designated funds are still intact. Still on track for MA DOT funding for final phase. Attended Bike Advisory Committee. Marched in Big E parade.

#### Old Business:

- 1.

#### New Business:

1. Joe to follow-up on liability insurance requirements for FOCGRT.
2. Should someone send Mass DOT thank you note for holding efficient public hearing.
3. Discussion about thanking Westfield CPC for designating funds for trail.
4. Committee formed (Joe and Chris) to recommend ways to an \$800 grant.

Next meeting is Tuesday, November 27 at the YMCA.

Motion made to adjourn meeting by Dan, second by John, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.