

## **Friends of Columbia Greenway Rail Trail, Inc.**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**December 12, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm by Sandy.

Present: Joe Giffune, Sandy Sorel, Eric Bressler, Chris Steger, Bob Pac, George Hart, Alice Flyte, Ashely Eaton, Bob Burch, Mike Young, Don Podolski, Bengt-Olaf Schneider, Carmel Steger, John Tassinari, Dan Call, Mark Cressotti,

Guests: Madison Babula (in lieu of Joe Camerilli), Officer Steve Nacewicz, Paul and Caroline Cocollice, Rob Atkocattis

Mark Cressotti/Westfield Engineering Dept.

Central Section: had a meeting with District and state representatives, 75% design submitted for review, potential for construction advertisement in the Feb – April 2019 time frame, this may require additional CPA funds, neighborhood meetings to be scheduled soon (January or February), need support from board members and public to advocate for trail, still no decision on which city department will be responsible for trail.

Westfield River Bridge: bridge to be sandblasted and painted by end of 2017, City to hold a grand opening on May 12<sup>th</sup> with the Mayor's ride to end up at bridge, FOGCRT will be supporting the ride.

Western Ave project running into delays.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Joe Giffune moved to approve, Don seconded, motion passed.

Officer Nacewicz: Westfield PD has a web site [westfieldpolice.org](http://westfieldpolice.org), use this to file online reports of trail issues, also can call PD at 413.562.5411, press 4 or 8 to get a live person, the PD has a site file to track incidents, web site has a help page, go to "How Do I", report incidents, scroll down for options, reports are check Monday - Friday

Directors of Maintenance (Bob Pac/George Hart)

Refer to previously sent maintenance report, attending Farmington Valley Rail Trail annual meeting, root bumps have been observed in trail pavement near Tin Bridge, DPW has been monitoring erosion issues, Maintenance report sent to board members with meeting minutes, discussion about rail trail counters and type to use and where to mount and how to secure from vandalism, the price for three counters is \$2215, motion made by John to allocate \$2500 for the purchase of the counters, seconded by Begt, discussion ensued about how to mount the counters, motion passed, Sandy to investigate if FOCGRT insurance will cover repairs due to vandalism, bike repair station discussion tabled to spring.

Visitor introduction: Paul and Caroline Cocollice, discussion about how the city of Pittsburg has developed a bike culture; Rob E: discussion about how to build business support for the trail.

#### Treasurer's Report

Eric handed out a Profit and Loss sheet and a balance sheet, the finance subcommittee (Eric, Joe G., Chris, Mike) will meet to draft a budget.

#### Director of Education and Research (Madison Babula)

Survey has been completed and 1000 postcards were sent to Westfield residents, 50 people have been interviewed so far.

#### Director of Planning and Resources Report (Ashely Eaton)

Grant due date is Friday, the Native American signs for the trail have been approved, estimate is that each sign will cost \$1590.00 (x2) and a \$2000 deposit is necessary, FOCGRT board will review proposal and vote on funding, Ashley to follow-up with the Westfield Historical Commission to validate they have approved the signs.

#### Director of Membership (Alice Flyte)

Emails are being entered into the database of people who have contributed to the rail trail, 48 people are paid members, Event Committee met to schedule 2018 events, Tuesdays on trail (bike ride) will take place, Mayor's ride will be May 12<sup>th</sup> (in conjunction with Westfield River bridge opening).

#### Chair/Vice Chair Report (Joe Giffune/Sandy Sorel)

FOCGRT has committed to participating in Westfield's 350<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, Grants for 2018 are starting to come due, thanks to Begt for a donation, Commonwealth Places has grant money available for crowd funding events, motion made to pay \$100 for advertisement in the Westfield Colleen's brochure by Dan, seconded by Joe, discussion ensued about how and where to spend advertising dollars, motion failed (against 5, for 4).

#### Old Business

- 

#### New Business

- GDan eCall presented information from meetings he attended.

Next meeting is Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at Stella's Tap Room, 10 Elm Street, Westfield, MA. Take the elevator up to the 3rd floor, you can access it through the door on your left when you enter the restaurant.

Motion made to adjourn meeting by Bob Pac, second by Ashley, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Steger