

Friends of Columbia Greenway Rail Trail, Inc.

Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2017

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

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

Guests: Madison Babula (in lieu of Joe Camerilli), Christine Beacon

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

Taxes and 2017 state paperwork have been finalized and mailed. Jacob's Ladder Business Association is celebrating the Chester Rail Station 25th anniversary (Nov. 15, 2017). Discussion about the benefits of joining the association ensued. Motion made by Dan Call to pay \$50.00 to Jacob's Ladder Business Association to become a member, seconded by Bengt, motion passed.

Meeting location of upstairs at Stella's will be the location for FOCGRT for the foreseeable future. A committee needs to be convened to review FOCGRT bylaws and Board of Director's handbook. Bengt agreed to investigate how to set up a place on the iCloud for document storage. Joe Giffune will send Alice electronic files of the BoD handbook and bylaws. Alice will send out an email about the open Board position for Director of Resource Development.

Mark Cressotti/Westfield Engineering Dept.

Discussion about central phase of rail trail. 75% complete plans resubmitted to Mass DoT for review which is progressing. Federal and state officials are supporting the Transportation for America initiative which could have funding sources. Funding for central phase in line for state advertisement in FY 19. Discussion about the availability of CPC funds for completing design.

Western Ave project running into delays with advertising possible in June 2018.

Westfield River Bridge deck resurfacing to be completed in November 2017 and painting to be done in December. Opening targeted for spring 2018. Possible that FOCGRT could work with Mayor's office about opening ceremonies.

Treasurer's Report

Eric was not present at the meeting. A finance subcommittee has been established (Eric, Joe G., Chris, Mike). Plan to meet before Thanksgiving to start working on a budget and sorting out email addresses for donors.

Director of Planning and Resources Report (Ashely Eaton)

Met with MJ to review the Native American signs and layout. Applied for grant for installing temporary way finding signs (MJ has a student who previously did some work for these signs). Alice is investigating how and when items can be donated with names on them.

Directors of Maintenance (Bob Pac/George Hart)

Maintenance report sent to board members with meeting minutes. A significant erosion issue has developed south of the Tin Bridge section of the trail and DPW is investigating options. Investigation into bike repair stations showed they cost \$600 - \$1350 to purchase. Bob recommended the 1099 DeRo (?) pump with replacement parts (for vandalism) and located at the Shaker Farms parking lot. Board took it under advisement with a decision for spring installation.

Director of Education and Research (Madison Babula)

Contacted city and got a list of residents and 1000 were randomly selected for interviewing about their bike friendly city opinions. Postcards to go out shortly.

Director of Membership (Alice Flyte)

Still struggling to get email addresses for people who have donated previously so they can be contacted for another donation. A Mail Chimp account has been set up for FOCGRT. There is a Facebook page, bikephg, which has some ideas. Discussion about having bicycle parking at city events. Alice needs assistance pulling together a 2018 event list (Ashley and Carmel volunteered to assist).

Old Business

- Trail counters continue to be worked on, John and Bob to report back at December meeting.
- Trees to replace the damaged ones will be donated in the spring.
- Discussion about participating in Westfield's 350th celebration. Dan Call made a motion to communicate to the 350th Committee that the FOCGRT Board will support the effort, especially when the trail is involved. Don Podolski, seconded, unanimous approval. Chris to commute on behalf to the FOCGRT Board to Harry Rock.

New Business

- Lantern parade and tree lighting November 25th.
- FOCGRT memberships make great gifts so promote with your friends and workmates.
- Dan Call attended the MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) meeting. The Federal FY 2019 plan contains the central section of the rail trail, including 5 bridges. Next MPO meeting is November 28th and Dan plans to attend.

Next meeting is Tuesday, December 12, 2017 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. Optional holiday social hour after the meeting for those available.

Motion made to adjourn meeting by, second by, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Steger