

Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm

Present: Joe Giffune, Eric Bressler, Chris Steger, Bob Pac, George Hart, Alice Flyte, Bob Burch, Mike Young, Don Podolski, Bengt-Olaf Schneider, Carmel Steger, Dan Call, Mark Cressotti, Madison Babula

Guests: Carolyn and Paul Cacolice

Previous meeting minutes: Eric motion to approve, Begnt seconded. Discussion about adding Dan Call gifting a trail counter to Southwick Park and Recreation, motion passed. May 2017 meeting minutes reviewed since they were not previously approved. Motion to approve, by Carmel, seconded by Bob Pac, discussion to attach ballot to meeting minutes. Motion passed. Chris to update minutes.

Mark Cressotti/Westfield Engineering Dept.

Public information meeting held at City Council chambers, plan to do some strategic outreach to rail trail abutters to seek input, discussion about the options presented at the meeting for Elm Street bridge, planning to seek funding from Westfield CPA funding in April then go to City Council for July meeting,

Western Ave: 100% design plans submitted to state, bid documents submitted, possible estimated costs in the \$9.5 million range, state and city are continuing to review additional funding sources.

Westfield River Levee: surveying has started for the levee extension.

Chair/Vice Chair Report (Joe Giffune)

Thanks to all board members who attended the public hearing, the Gifting Letter has been completed for trail counters, Westfield Mayor was very appreciative, Mayor requested acceptance at City Council meeting where the counters were unanimously accepted, two counters have since been installed along the Westfield portion of the rail trail, some FOCGRT board members will be attending the Westfield River Watershed Association meeting, Westfield River clean up day is April 21, board members interested in forming a group should do so.

Treasurer's Report (Eric Bressler)

Profit and Loss and Balance sheets were handed out, working to get FOCGRT donation history from database, John is still looking into on line donation issues with web site, work is continuing on additional financial information to be added to web site, discussion concerning who is picking up U.S. mail form P.O. box, there could be donation checks in the mail, agreement that Joe Giffune will be picking up mail.

Director of Planning and Resources Report (Ashely Eaton)

No report

Directors of Maintenance (Bob Pac/George Hart)

Dan Call: met with the Southwick Park and Rec and Rail Trail friends, agreed to continue physical counts even though an autocounter has been installed, Southwick Selectmen approved acceptance of counter and it has since been installed.

Bob Pac will be representing the FOCGRT Board before the Westfield Parks and Rec (see previous PowerPoint presentation), trail graffiti continuing to be an issue and is being taken care of when discovered by Bob and George, vandalized doggie bag dispenser has been replaced and a new one installed, discussion about if the Westfield Vocational Academy agriculture students can be engaged to assist in trail maintenance, George to check with school instructors, received a letter from the PVPC congratulating FOCGRT on the trail counters.

Director of Education and Research (Joe Camilleri)

No report

Director of Membership (Alice Flyte)

Working to verify all FOCGRT Board members donations have been accounted for, donations should be directed to donations@columbiagreenway.org, Alice will go to web site to check on donation status, the nominating committee has been talking to potential candidates for open board positions, will be participating in the Westfield Watershed Association meeting, a business membership letter has been drafted, developing a list of potential businesses solicited, board members to give Alice any suggestions, Golden Spike conference is in July in Northampton, Eric to investigate funding options for board members who may want to attend

Old Business:

1. Westfield 350 Committee formed (George, Carmel, Ashley), looking for ideas for events, Chris to add the Committee report out to the standing agenda
2. FOCGRT Board meetings will be at the YMCA until further notice

New Business:

1. Donation site did not appear to be secure, not sure if a fix has been put in place
2. Shriners Coloring book contest, to be discussed further
3. E-bike usage on trails (Don): discussion on what type of electric assisted bikes are allowed on bike trails, Don to send out a web link from the League of American Bicyclists.

Next meeting is Tuesday, May 15th, at YMCA

Motion made to adjourn meeting by Don, second by Dan, motion passed. Meeting adjourned.