

Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail Meeting Minutes 03/20/2012

In attendance: L. Bianco, J. Giffune, G. Hart, N. Kotowicz, J. LaValley, J. Tassinari, D. Tatlock-Calkins, S. Thomson, M. Cressotti, K. Phelon

Approval of Minutes

Chair / LaValley

- Minutes from 02/21/2012 – Approved with minor corrections

Reports of Directors

Chair-LaValley

- Jeff reviewed the letter drafted by MJ for our appeal to the board members.
- Jeff discussed Joe's visit with the Southampton Friends group.
- Jeff shared that he received an email from Ms. McClean of the Mayor's office asking about the bike racks that were set aside. Mark Cressotti will follow up.
- Jeff discussed the printing of the brochure. A motion was made and seconded that we should use Marcus Printing based on the quotes received. The motion passed.
- Jeff shared that we received the grant for the mural on the side of New Horizons. Jeff asked that Scott reach out to Marlene to see if some one from Columbia Manufacturing would like to be part of the Mural team. Jeff would like to set up a team to meet with the artist.

Vice Chair-Giffune

- Joe shared that he is working with the Friends of the Southampton rail trail providing guidance where he can.

Treasurer-Tatlock-Calkins

- Donna provided her report, which shows that we have a balance of \$4606.12 as of 3/20/2012.

Director of Advancement-Bull – Not in Attendance

Director of Programs & Events-Kotowicz

- 9/14/2012 is the golf tournament. Her team is working on 5 different business to get donations.
- 5/20/2012 would like to have our annual Bike meeting promoting our organization and the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail.

Director of Education & Research-Podolski – At the bike summit in Washington, DC.

City Engineer-Cressotti

- In the process of awarding the contract for the southern portion of the rail trail project.
- Joe raised the question if there will be another meeting with the Harvest Moon residence in regard to the project work.
- At this point, two visitors raised questions in regard to the access to the trail. A decision was made to finish the meeting agenda, close the meeting and then have a sit down with the two individuals, Mark Cressotti and members of the Board.

Mayor-Knapik – Not in attendance.

Reports of Committees

Finance Committee

- No report at this time.

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Communications Committee

- No report at this time. John asked to demonstrate the web site so folks can provide feed back. It was decided that this should be done after the meeting had been closed.

Old Business

Brochure & Logo-LaValley

- The brochure has been updated with corrections. 5,000 copies will be created.
- A press release will be generated detailing the brochures and where they will be located.
- Stevens 470 has offered to meet with a small group to understand what we are looking for in regard to a logo design. This would be free of charge.
- Questions raised as to why the logo needs to be changed since we had approved a logo design in an earlier meeting.
- Jeff indicated that he would research the topic and get back to the board as to a recommended direction.

Bon Ton Community Days Recap- Ferrell

- Christine reviewed what has happened to date. We need to get our money to her no latter than April 27.

New Business

Treasurer's Position-LaValley

- Jeff and Donna had discussed the position in regards to the changes that have occurred with the overall responsibilities since the inception of FOCGRT. Donna had stepped up to fill this position in Dec 2011 due to no one else wishing to take on this role. Donna recognized that moving forward we needed some one with significant accounting experience in this position.
- Donna volunteered to resign. A motion was made, seconded and accepted. Donna abstained from the vote.
- Jeff introduced Mike Fournier who is a CPA and was willing to review our books and assume the role of Treasurer.
- A motion was made, seconded, and accepted for Mike to assume this position. Donna abstained from the vote.
- **Director of Advancement / Director of Development, Planning and Maintenance – LaValley**
- MJ Bull has asked to resign from this position. A motion was made, seconded and accepted. to accept her resignation.
- A motion was made, seconded and accepted to have MJ move into the role of Director of Planning, Development and Maintenance

At-Large Vacancy(ies) - Thomson/Hart & Voting Members

- Donna was nominated to fill one of the 2-year at large vacancies. The nomination was seconded and accepted.
- One 2-year at large vacancy is open along with the remainder of Jose Roman's position for the remainder of the 2012 calendar year.
- 2 individuals are interested in these positions. They are Joe Camilleri and Allan Gangliardo. A vote was taken as to who should move into the 2-year and one-year positions.
- Joe Camilleri was elected to the 2-year at large position.

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- Allan Gangliardo was elected to finish out the remaining calendar year at large position.

- We welcome both gentlemen to the board,

Membership/Proposed Non Profit Volunteer Network-LaValley

- Jeff discussed the pros in joining this group. A motion was made, seconded and accepted to do so.

Community Liaison(s) Update(s)

Southwick-Call

- Dan shared the clean up efforts and cost for the Southwick trail.
- Dan discussed the pending legislation in regard to Support of Transportation Enhancements, Recreational Trails and Safe Routes to School.

Southampton-Buehler-Not in Attendance

Easthampton-TBD

Northampton-TBD

Public Participation

- Discussion in regard to foot traffic over the tin bridge while the gas line is being installed. A decision was made to send correspondence to the city council expressing the groups concern in regard to pedestrian safety crossing the bridge while construction is going on.
- Steven Bertera of 32 Harvest Moon, Westfield along with Dave Metcalf of 31 Harvest Moon, Westfield expressed their concern around the entrance to the trail that goes through their property. They expressed concerns about their families' safety, liability issues, property values, drainage etc. They wanted to know what their responsibilities will be once the access way is installed. It was agreed that Mark Cressotti and a number of members of the Board would meet with these two gentlemen at the conclusion of the meeting.
- Bob Pack of 46 Country Club Way asked if the project was on schedule and what would happen if it is not completed by the end of June. Mark Cressotti responded.
- Barry Knapp of 50 Yeary Drive shared his experience with dealing with property adjacent to various rail trails in MA in regard to the favorability realtors put on these types of properties.

Next Meeting

- April 17, 2012, Shaker Farms Country Club, 866 Shaker Road, Westfield, MA

Adjournment