

# Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail

## Meeting Minutes 05/15/2012

**Attendees:** M. Cressotti, M.J. Bull, J. Camilleri, M. Fournier, A. Gangliardo, J. Giffune, G. Hart, C. Knapp, N. Kotowitz, J. LaValley, D. Podolski, J. Tassinari, D. Tatlock-Calkins, S. Thomson

### Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from 4/17/2012 approved with no corrections.

### Public Participation

- Robert Cordeira of 27 Colony Circle, Nicoll Vincet of 35 Colony Circle, and Bob Pac of 46 Country Club Drive addressed the group with concerns in regard to the ongoing work being done to the rail trail. Their concerns were in regard to increased criminal activity, privacy issues due to tree removal, lack of fencing, increased slope down to the trail which may be a potential for young children to get hurt, property damage, lighting and illegal dumping. Mark Cressotti listened and responded to these concerns stressing that they should contact him or the Mayor's office with these issues.

### Special Guest Speaker - David Paine – Landscape Architect for the Project.

- David shared his vision of how he sees the trail as a living museum. To support that a number of kiosks are going to be incorporated in the trail. David asked that the FOCGRT act as an advisory committee in regard to what information should be provided on the kiosks.
- MJ has reached out to the Westfield Historical Society and has a student, as part of her college work, identifying historical sites along the trail and working to develop the historical information David talked about.
- It was suggested that this could be done in conjunction with FOCGRT and that we should start the process now.

### Reports of Directors [& Committees]

#### Chair - LaValley

- Jeff shared that he put in a request to the Big Y to provide support to our golf outing. Big Y reviewed his request and has granted FOCGRT a \$2,500 donation in support of the golf outing.
- The Golf Committee has received its first tee sponsorship.

#### Vice Chair – Giffune

- Joe has been spending time talking to folks who have come to him with issues in regard to the Greenway construction.
- Joe indicated that we need to update our information in regard to the status of the Greenway and what is next.
- Joe suggested that we add a “Frequently Asked Questions” section to the web site.

#### Treasurer – Fournier

- Mike presented the treasurer's report and indicated he should have a budget ready to review in June.
- John, Don, and Jeff to review the Pay Pal donations. It appears that too much is being taken out by Pay Pal based on a trial donation submittal.

#### Director of Advancement – LaValley

- Board Gift participation is at 58%

#### Director of Programs & Events – Kotowitz

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- Nancy discussed the 5/20 Blazing New Trails Event at Shaker Farms. The brochure is attached. Volunteers are needed for the event which will run from 2-4. Nancy discussed the two options depending on weather which are both very good.
- A waiver of liability was presented to Nancy for the Bike donated by Columbia Greenway for the raffle.
- A discussion was had about having a trail opening event. This needs to be coordinated with the Mayor's office.

### **Director of Education & Research - Podolski**

- **Bike Week Report**
  - Saturday Bike Rodeo, attendance light, 40 kids, re evaluating for next year
  - Saturday Double Century Tour, 32 riders participated. George Hart, Bob Pac, Mary MacAdam, JoAnne Podolski assisted.
  - Monday, Mayor's Bike Ride, rain but 13 riders, including Mayor Dan Knapik, State Representative Don Humason, City Councilor Agma Sweeney, City Planner Jay Vinskey, Jeff McCullough (PVPC), and Mass DOT Marketing Manager Johanna Blue came to take photos.
  - Press coverage of the Rodeo in Monday's WEN, coverage of the Mayor's ride today as well as the Mayor's Proclamation. Handout Copy for all
  - 1st entries received for the scavenger hunt
  - Scavenger clues on line as well as at New Horizons and Miss Sweets. Handout Copy of clues
  - Film tomorrow night
  - Bike demo Saturday
  - Fleche brunch Sunday as well as afternoon event. Brunch is at 10AM; meet the 3 Fleche Teams, Eliminator Cycling, Niantic CT, Shiftless Vagabonds, NYC, Cycledelics, and Woodstock, VT. Each team is 5 riders. Group ride at 7:00AM to attempt meeting a Fleche Team on the road.
  - Shirts and surveys for Sunday.
  - It now appears the temp bridge to Pochassic Rd. will be left in place after Drugstore Hill Bridge is completed, giving link to on road segment to Southampton.

### **Director of Planning, Development & Maintenance – Bull**

- MJ has been doing research as to how Friends groups work with the city in managing the maintenance of the various trails through out the sate.
- She has reviewed potential funds available for maintenance from WG&E

### **City Engineer – Cressotti**

- Reviewed the status of the Trail to date and indicated that even with the vandalism that occurred to the equipment, weather depending, the project is on schedule.

### **Mayor – Knapik – Not in Attendance**

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## Reports of Committees

Bike Week/Events - Podolski/Kotowitz

- See above

Golf Tournament/Events – Kotowitz

- Good forward progress has been made and the budget for the event will be finalized by the June meeting.

Website/Communications - Podolski/Tassinari

- Nothing to report

Mural Project – LaValley

- The committee has not had an opportunity to meet yet due to conflicting schedules. Jeff will try to set something up for early June.

## Old Business

Bon Ton Community Days FINAL Report – Ferrell

- Great job on this event. Raised \$510.

Logo – LaValley

- The graphic artist has been traveling for business so we are waiting for the first draft for review.

G&E Inserts

- Working on it.

## New Business

Ex-Officio Vacancies – LaValley

- By Laws require that the Head of the BID is an honorary member. The new head will be extended a letter to let her know.
- We will determine what to do with the Ward 3 opening once there has been a new Councilor appointed.

Honorary Membership – LaValley

- A motion was made and passed to make Lisa McMahon and Peter Miller Honorary members of the FOCGRT.

Bike Racks - Podolski/LaValley

- Chris Lindquist is working with Don in regard to locations for the bike racks outside of the Athenaeum

Capital Campaign – LaValley

- Tabled

## Community Liaison(s) Update(s) – No One in Attendance

- |               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| ○ Southwick   | Call    |
| ○ Southampton | Buehler |
| ○ Easthampton | TBD     |
| ○ Northampton | Horton  |

## Next Meeting

- June 19, 2012, 6:30 PM Shaker Farms Country Club, 866 Shaker Road, Westfield, MA

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**Adjournment**