

Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail
Minutes of the Meeting on June 17, 2014

Roll call: **Clerk, George Hart** - members present: Dave Carlin, Mark Cressotti, Joe Giffune, Al Guagliardo, George Hart, Demetrios Kanavaros, Jeff LaValley, Sally Memole, Bob Pac, Chris Stegr, John Tassinari

Open meeting laws were read

Consent of agenda items: motion to approve, seconded, vote passed

Motion to accept the minutes of our 5-20-14 meeting was made and seconded, vote passed

Public Participation: none: Jeff L. suspended rules of order to allow Friends of Southampton to introduce themselves (Patti Mari, chair; Dave Mari; Charlie McDonald); Jeff said welcome and explained why they were invited (to update us on Southampton): Charlie said they are trying to purchase corridor with grant money, a member gave info on a grant to purchase the rail was received at 80% of \$340,000; 600 people attended meeting to approve the above money, they got MA DOT to approve, gave further details of responsibilities/ baseline document/ goals/ environmental assessment/ title search cost of \$17,000/ received sufficient funds from town/ 4.25 miles from Coleman Rd. to Brickyard and Valley roads; they asked if we have maintenance agreements and Joe G said we're working on it with DPW, we will stay in touch; they asked about financial/treasurer recommendations; they mentioned conducting bike rodeo; Joe G explained our events (2x per year) and the golf tournament and Don P/New Horizons support; Jeff said we are happy to meet separately to share ideas; Joe G said we spend money for education and outreach, WSU affiliation regarding signage, etc.; Jeff and Joe reviewed our past history of time/accomplishment/spread the word in the community/get people involved.

Reports of city Departments:

City Engineer: Mark Cressotti – construction continues; bridges progressing; abutters have calmed down; all future access into business side, not resident; 2015 for registering with TIP; meeting 6/18/14 is open to attend at PVPC at 10:30AM; paving for spur is completed; George H. asked about a spur behind DPW and he said it was temporary, also about the next access ramp along St. Dennis Street and he said it was still in the plans; other questions were asked regarding ramps in town and he said ramp location is possible near Stop & Shop/Free St.; Jeff asked for a copy of the plans; Al G. asked regarding Westfield River Watershed Assoc. interest in signs to support WRWA and need to know what they can do soon and Mark said to put together a designer line and submit to Jeff.

Treasurer's Financial Report: represented by Joe G – we are down \$5,000.00; have \$19,000.00; listed assorted all on hard copy list; money is starting to come in for golf tourney, but need to focus on more; Jeff received \$2,500.00 from Westfield Bank and \$100 from -----

Old Business: reports from committees: John T. shared new volunteer ideas:

- awards program: Jeff – new awards program includes ----- ; any motions?; will develop subcommittee in future; motion made to approve new subcommittee, seconded, vote passed.

- \$2,500.00 for graphic artists – Chris S said he and MJ Bull got planning reviews on an artist who then submitted a quote of \$1,850.00 for RFP up to design of stand to be built and the timeline in RFP is about 6 months for installing in late fall or early spring; motion to approve spending up to \$2,000.00 for signs, seconded, vote passed.

- dog clean up station: Bob P gave to Joe G before meeting for \$400.00 cost; Jeff said to create a line item.

Pull out items:

- Responses from Amelia Park, Boys & Girls Club, South M.S., Children's Museum and Atheneum: only heard from 3 of them.
- \$150.00 gift card for Mike F.
- WPD report on Shaker Rd. lights: need motion, suggestion to get City Councilor Bob Paul to address this and Dave C will contact him regarding changing the light and to post speed limit; education committee to advocate for appropriate road crossing

New Business: Jeff L

- Second publication in WEN by the end of Sept. for pre-Great River Ride and get advertising to cover cost: motion was made to do this, seconded, discussion of a minimum of \$900.00 raised so no more than \$300.00 should be spent, seconded, vote passed.
- Video protection – tabled
- Proposal of 2 memorial gifts; discussion of recognition plaques and what is appropriate; motion made to send memorial gifting to the fund raising subcommittee; seconded, vote passed.
- Expenditure request – annual chamber pancake breakfast event to do tabling on 7/10/14: not a lot of success but new system requires all to see every table; motion made to spend \$75.00 for this, seconded, vote passed.
- Jeff needs to know if we should move to create a 'cloud file' on computer
- Jeff and Joe G/ will attend chamber event and others.
- Sally M.: director of membership and outreach – wants to look into food festival at WSU on 10/4/14 and/or 10/9/14 to raise awareness; need to go to city to ask regarding permits for trucks and if this can be waived for a one day event; has contact to look into all the how to; Jeff said to see Joe Rouse; also mentioned "little free library" in a 'bird house' in the size for two dozen books in a location (all on hard copy handout); Jeff said to include this on next meeting agenda.

Reminder made that we are not meeting for the next two months.

Motion made to adjourn, seconded, vote passed

Next golf committee meeting on 6/26/14 at Shaker Farms CC at 6:00PM