

# Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail Meeting Minutes September 18, 2012

## **Approval of Minutes - Chair / LaValley**

Minutes from 06/19/2012 – One correction notes. Joe Camilleri will be providing the FAQ's for the web site. Other than this correction the minutes were approved.

## **Public Participation**

- Mary MacAdam discussed the upcoming Great River Ride and the need for volunteers. The Friends will be providing a table at this event. Mary will supply Jeff with the volunteer information. She also suggested that we show pictures of the trail and how it has changed at this event. The information for the ride will be added to our Face Book page and a link on our web site will be added as well.

## **Reports of Directors [& Committees]**

### *Chair – LaValley*

- Passed

### *Vice Chair – Giffune*

- Passed

### *Treasurer – Fournier*

- Reviewed our financial status and provided those in attendance a detailed report showing Balance Sheet, Year to Year comparison of Profit and Loss, and a breakdown of all of the ins and outs of the account.

### *Director of Advancement – LaValley*

- Provided a document showing how we can do bulk mailings at savings along with 3<sup>rd</sup> party fundraising.
- Folks need to bring suggestions to the table in regard to what we should do with our funds.

### *Director of Programs & Events – Kotowitz*

- On 10/12 the Grand Opening of the Trail will be held at the Shaker Farms pavilion. The subcommittee that was originally involved will be getting back together to discuss how and what should be done. Jeff will provide a date for the subcommittee to meet.
- On 10/29 are Colonial Harvest days. We will be setting up a table and need volunteers. We will be selling FOCGRT trinkets. Jeff will send out an announcement.

### *Director of Education & Research – M. MacAdam for Podolski*

- The 2012 Moving Together MASS DOT annual statewide walking and bicycling conference will be held in Boston on 10/17 from 0745 to 1600. Mary will email the link out to everyone. J. Giffune made a motion that anyone from the Board who wishes to attend will have their transportation costs and fee registration covered by the FOCGRT. The motion passed.

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

- MJ provided a handout in regard to Historical Signage, which is attached.
- Discussed a project she has developed with one of her students to write a column for the Westfield News every two weeks. The purpose is to be educational and provide outreach from the FOCGRT.
- MJ is working on a draft ordinance for usage standards for the rail trail.

## **Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail Meeting Minutes September 18, 2012**

- Discussion in regard to the Kiosks. What are they to be such as a storybook, history, location, what is around you, etc. Questions raised as to what is the process for the kiosk.

### *City Engineer – Cressotti*

- The crossing at Shaker Farms Road is operational.
- The trail was designed around points of interest; we should consider it a linear park/transportation corridor. Spots have been determined on the trail to share the story of the trail and Westfield.
- J. Giffune shared his concern in regard to the washout at the access ways to the trail. Shared concern with the gate at the end of the trail and the use of 4 wheel vehicles past the gate.

*Mayor – Knapik – Not in attendance*

### **Reports of Committees**

#### *Golf Committee - LaValley/Kotowitz*

- Jeff will generate report.
- Overwhelming success. 136 golfers attended dinner.
- Folks would like us to do it again.
- Golf Committee was small but did a tremendous job. We need increased participation on the committee for next year.

#### *Communications - Podolski/Tassinari*

- Joe Camilleri reviewed his first draft of FAQ for the web site.
- John Tassinari has done research on the old rail road spur that the trail is on and will post to the web site.
- Jeff will provide John a sponsor list.

### **Old /Unfinished (?) Business**

#### *Elections/Nominations – Thomson*

- We have one Board Position open Director of Advancement and one at large member who will serve out the remainder of this year and 2013. Any one having knowledge of interested parties should let Scott know.
- Discussed the attendance of At Large members. Scott to review by laws and discuss at the next meeting.

#### *Directors/Board Insurance - M. MacAdam for Podolski*

- Scott to sign us up on the League of American Bicyclists as a new member.

#### *Strategic Planning Session (summer) – LaValley*

- Jeff reviewed the minutes from the session

#### *G&E Inserts – LaValley*

- Went well with no issues.

#### *Mural Project – LaValley*

- Still on hold. Funding is still available.

# Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail Meeting Minutes September 18, 2012

## **New Business**

*Colonial Harvest Days – Saturday, Sept. 29*

- Jeff to send out a reminder and ask for volunteers

*Ribbon Cutting/Official Trail Opening – Friday, Oct. 12*

- More info to come, see above, committee reforming.

*Logo Unveiling – November 28*

- Kate Phelon has arranged for us to speak at the Westnet event

*End of Year Appeal – Mailing*

- Jeff discussed a web site he has seen using USPS to reduce costs. He proposed we do a test mailing and provided a document showing those areas to be mailed to and then review the costs.
- A suggestion was made to include a fridge magnet with the mailings

## **Community Liaison(s) Update(s) – None in Attendance**

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

## **Next Meeting**

- October 23, 2012, Shaker Farms Country Club, 866 Shaker Road, Westfield, MA

## **Adjournment**