

# Milford Upper Charles Trail Committee

DRAFT (7-13-23)

## Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Milford Upper Charles Trail Committee was held on Thursday, July 6, 2023. Reno DeLuzio being in the chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Present at the meeting were five members: Reno DeLuzio, Henry Papuga, Elaine Capuzziello, Jeff Howard, Frank Pirrello, and Frank Malangone. Absent from the meeting were two members: Brian Murray and Joseph Arcudi. No members of the public were present.

Chairman DeLuzio announced that the meeting was being audio recorded and asked if anyone had objection. Hearing no objection, the meeting was recorded.

Note: Agenda Item # 2 (Administrative Items) addressed out of sequence.

### **1. Approve the May 9, 2023 meeting minutes.**

The May 9, 2023 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

**3. Invitation to Speak:** No one from the public being present, an invitation to speak was unnecessary.

### **4. East Coast Greenway (ECG) Initiative Endorsement.**

Chairman DeLuzio handed out and reviewed a presentation he is planning to present to the Select Board at their July 10th meeting and will request their endorsement of including the Milford Upper Charles Trail as part of the East Coast Greenway (a planned 3,000-mile trail from Maine to Southern Florida). Some key points:

- The ECG interactive map <https://map.greenway.org/> includes the Upper Charles Trail in Sherborn, Holliston, and Milford.
- Sherborn and Holliston have endorsed designating their segments as part of the ECG.
- ECG includes both off-road and on-road segments.
- ECG is mainly a signage program. [https://www.wmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/ECGA\\_signage\\_manual\\_20160627-2.pdf](https://www.wmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/ECGA_signage_manual_20160627-2.pdf)
- Town's responsibility – Provide sign posts, install, and maintain signs provided by ECG.
- Milford's endorsement will include the MUCT segment from the Holliston town line to Mt. Pleasant St. for now due to an issue with ECG's designated on-road route from Mt. Pleasant St. to the Bellingham Town Line.

There were no comments on the presentation slides.

### On-Road Segment Issue:

Chairman DeLuzio did not concur with ECG's designated on-road route. Their map shows going from the trail at Mt. Pleasant St. to Aldin St. to South Central St. and thence proceeding to the Bellingham town line. It is a very steep slope to Aldin St. which is not conducive to trail users, especially those with limited physical abilities. He proposed an alternative route where slopes are not as severe. The alternative route would proceed from the trail at Mt. Pleasant St. thence proceeding to Beach St. to East St. to East St. Extension to South Central St., thence proceeding to the Bellingham town line. Highway Surveyor Scott Crisafulli concurred. Chairman DeLuzio conveyed this alternative route to ECG and requested information regarding the process to change the ECG's map. He is awaiting their response.

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Mr. Papuga questioned why the Committee is involved instead of the Town Planner or Town Engineer. Chairman DeLuzio responded that he was contacted and asked to bring this initiative to the attention of the Select Board. He volunteered to do it. *[Note: If the Town Planner or Town Engineer were involved, the information required for the endorsement submittal documentation and the on-road route issue would have required the Chairman's involvement.]* Mr. Papuga also expressed his dissatisfaction that this initiative was not brought before the Committee sooner for its consideration. Mr. Malangone commented that, from the press, it appears to be a done deal.

Chairman DeLuzio handed out a copy of the letter of endorsement he prepared for the Select Board. There were no comments.

Chairman DeLuzio made a motion to approve proceeding with the presentation to the Select Board. Motion passed -- four in favor, one abstention.

Chairman DeLuzio handed out a copy and reviewed the Trail Designation Application form which contains more descriptive representation of the Milford Upper Charles Trail. He pointed out that since this is a signage program for both the off-road and on-road segments, and the Highway Surveyor is responsible for street signs as approved by the Select Board, the Highway Surveyor was designated as segment manager. Scott concurred. *[Note: Scott is also a Parks Commissioner.]* There were no comments on the form.

### 1. Administrative Items

Mr. Papuga gave an update regarding the proposed path through Mr. Mainini's property on Eugene Circle. He had a conversation with the Town Planner who advised him that there are legal issues with Eugene Circle and that the Committee should not get involved.

Mr. Papuga reported on his further evaluation of the proposed connection from Parkhurst St. to the trail. He recommended it not be pursued any further.

Chairman DeLuzio provided an brief update on the Rt. 85 Connecting Path to the Bike Trail Project. The Trail Committee funds (\$3,000) allocated for this project will be spent on loaming and seeding the path shoulders.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47

Submitted

Reno DeLuzio, Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_