

Milford Upper Charles Trail Committee

Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Milford Upper Charles Trail Committee was held on Thursday, January 4, 2024. Reno DeLuzio being in the chair called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Present at the meeting were five members: Reno DeLuzio, Elaine Capuzziello, Attorney Brian Murray, Frank Malangone, and Frank Pirrello. Absent from the meeting were three members: Henry Papuga, Joseph Arcudi, and Jeff Howard. James Wheelock (1 Cunniff Ave.) was present.

1. Approve the November 21, 2023 meeting minutes.

Minutes were approved as presented.

2. Invitation to speak.

Mr. Wheelock was recognized. Chairman DeLuzio asked Mr. Wheelock if he would like to speak on anything that is not on the agenda. He had no comments.

3. Final Report Status (Draft 12-28-24)

Chairman DeLuzio pointed out that the report is not meant for the casual reader. There were no comments regarding the report's organization. Mr. Pirrello commented on the time it took to get through some of the obstacles. No one could recall another town project that took longer than this one to complete. He then asked for comments. All were minor corrections which he will fix in the next draft.

Attorney Murray commented on the comprehensiveness and thoroughness of the report. It will be an important resource to have, not only to document how a project like this should be done but maybe serve as a pathway for similar type projects. It is a record of a successful project, well thought out. He has seen other communities not as successful and are still floundering.

Chairman DeLuzio noted that the issues selected were those that could have been show stoppers (financially and/or otherwise) if not resolved.

Chairman DeLuzio went over the missing pieces. Page 57 (Appendix 7) shows pdf icons of Town Meeting Articles. This page will be replaced with two pages that lists the articles and their purpose.

Another missing piece is an appendix he handed out that shows before and after photos of key areas along the trail.

Also missing is the Friends topic in the Project Overview section. He is going keep it brief. Probably one paragraph on how it got started and conclude it with a statement that their performance has not met expectations in recent years. This will recognize that they were a part of the project without getting into all their issues.

A page is reserved for recommendations. Chairman DeLuzio can prepare the reasons why the Committee should be continued. He has asked Mr. Papuga to describe the special project he has in mind. So far, Mr. Papuga has not agreed to do it.

Chairman DeLuzio reiterated that hard copies will not be sent to Town Meeting Members. They will get notice of its availability on the Town website. However, some hard copies would be sent to a

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select group (e.g., Library, Planning and Engineering Dept., Historical Commission, Select Board, Legal Dept., Attorney Gerry Moody, etc.). Chairman DeLuzio passed around a 64-page, saddle stitched, blank booklet to see what it feels like. 64 pages is about the limit for this type of folded booklet stapled in the center. Its inexpensive to produce.

Discussion ensued regarding the continuation of the Committee.

Attorney Murray reiterated his position that he does not see any purpose for continuing the Committee. The charge of this Committee has been completed. If there is going to be any more work done it has to be organic and would have to come up from any group that is interested in any new project.

Chairman DeLuzio noted that Holliston did not call their committee the Holliston Upper Charles Trail Committee. It is called the Holliston Trails Committee which would encompass more than just the specific Upper Charles Trail project. Perhaps this is an appropriate title for a new committee going forward. It would be charged with exploring nature trails to augment the MUCT (i.e., Mr. Papuga's suggested trail from the MUCT, around Milford Pond, to Rosenfeld Park).

Attorney Murray noted that the only way that it could succeed is if there was a group of individuals who are interested in it and wanted to do it. Just saying we are going to have a committee to do it is not going to work. Nobody is going to sign up for it.

Chairman DeLuzio tended to agree. Perhaps we should do some homework to see if there are some people out there who are willing to get involved in the new committee, even before we go to the Select Board.

Attorney Murray then suggested that any recruitment of volunteers should be diverted to the Friends. The 501(c)(3) organization exists. A maintenance agreement amongst the Highway Dept., Parks Dept, Police Dept., and the Friends is also in place. The entity is there. If the interest is there they should be part of the solution.

Chairman DeLuzio (also a Friends member) reported that he contacted the Friends President and requested he call a meeting with the Board of Directors to get their position on what the Friends would do if the MUCT is dissolved. They have not responded to his inquiry. He believes they are on the verge of dissolving.

Attorney Murray made the point that whatever it is that a town committee would do, the vehicle to do it is in place with the Friends organization. What is required is people interested need to be in place to make that happen.

Chairman DeLuzio opined that the group there now is nonfunctional. They have shown no interest in making improvements. They have been unsuccessful in getting more member participation for over ten years.

4. Continued Committee – Mission Statement

The topic was not discussed.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:45



Reno DeLuzio, Chairman

Date: 2/8/24