

July 8, 2017

## **Deming, Masopust Prevail As Runners Raise \$170 For Library, Honor Series Founder**

ROXBURY – A former season champion and an emerging potential season champion took home the tree cord awards, the local library got money from the entry fees and the founder of the Roxbury Road Runners Club series was honored at the event that bears his name.

Chris Deming, 50, of Danbury, who formerly captured the point-standings title in the weekly series, placed first in 29-minutes, 2-seconds – a 6:36-per-mile pace - over the 4.4-mile 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Bill Burley MidSummer Championship, which started and finished near the Minor Memorial Library and included a trip up the steep hills on Squire Road.

Steven Leslie, 52, of Brookfield placed second in 30:08.

Alison Masopust, 33, of Morris was the first female and took fourth overall in 30:56.

Deming and Masopust each received tree cords that were decorated with art work from Dave Harvey, a former season champion in the series who has contributed several art pieces through the years.

Harvey also provided commemorative buttons that were presented to the second through fifth place finishers in the men's division – Leslie, Steve Youmatz, Rick Lowry and David McNamara – and the women's division – Donna Lesch, Mary Mahrer, Cynthia Degirolamo and 13-year old Shannon Palmer, who was competing in her first race in the series.

Burley, a former Roxbury resident and elementary school principal in New Milford, started the series in 1977, modeling it after an eight-week schedule of runs that he had run in Westport before moving to the area.

He started the race and handed out the awards, and his wife, Suzanne, a former teacher and coach in Region # 12, worked at the finish line. They now live in Colorado.

The event generated \$170 through the \$5-per runner entry fee for the library, which had obtained a grant and co-sponsored Exercise Your Mind – a summer reading program – with the race series in June 2016.

The series will resume on Saturday, July 15, at 8:30 a.m. at its usual site – the Everett Hurlburt Community Park at 18 Apple Lane – with the 7.25-mile Mallory Road/Flag Swap Road course.

Runners can enter through a \$50 season membership or a \$5 weekly waiver.

There will be no race on Saturday, July 29, in observance of the 50<sup>th</sup> annual New Milford Village Fair Days runs.

The races are sanctioned by the Roxbury Recreation Commission.

For further information, contact Scott Benjamin, the race director, at [ScottBenjaminWCSU2014@gmail.com](mailto:ScottBenjaminWCSU2014@gmail.com), (860) 354-3521 or access [www.roxburyraces.net](http://www.roxburyraces.net).