

Friends of Wompatuck

Minutes of Meeting

February 25, 2013



Present: Steve G (Park Supervisor), Jessica R (DCR), Wayne S, Frank B, Carl C (VP Trails), Sandy C (Membership), Bill B (President), Frank B, Jack D, Lars A (VP).

Meeting convened at approximately 7:05 PM.

Treasurer's Report

Jane was not present. Bill presented treasurer's report. The current balance of our checking account is \$24,883.71. Bill was not aware of any outstanding bills. The treasurer's report was accepted.

Secretary's Report

Pam was not present. Lars will take notes for this meeting. Last meeting's minutes were accepted.

Membership Report

The FOW currently has 131 member "entries" (some of which are multi-person). This month included 2 new members, 1 benefactor and one t-shirt purchased. The membership report was accepted.

Webmaster's Report

Vicki was not present. Bill reported that a \$100 entry was canceled after a Google issue; Vicki is sorting it out.

VP Report

Lars showed the new video by Nik Weikert – the Landmine photo/videographer – with footage from last year's race. There was mention of footage of snow dogs as well, that could possibly be edited to promote FOW and/or the park. Lars reported that he has been involved in the Ames Nowell map project. Steve G will mention more about this later. The VP report was accepted.

Eagle Scout Project

Scout Jack Dempsey introduced himself and asked for ideas for an eagle scout project, possibly around biking/signage. Steve mentioned that signage is already being worked on by a girl scout project. There might be a possibility to work on bridge resurfacing. Carl suggested rebuilding the large bridge at NW5, but Steve G pointed out that Americore is already scheduled to do that this year. There may be other bridges to be converted to bridal grade. Jack presented a time plan; the project would likely start in June. FOW can help with resources, including wood. Steve and Jack will contact Al and Wendy about bridges that would be suitable for bridal conversion.

Election of Officers

No additional nominations for officers had been received since the last meeting. The vote was unanimous to re-elect the current board for 2013.

Deer Hunting

Comments that came in since last meeting were handed out for review, and this topic would be picked up later in the meeting.

Gate Pins

Our hero Wayne had new gate pins manufactured, donated by the Vulcan company. Steve G was very happy! Bill had written and will send a nice thank you letter, and it was decided to make Vulcan an honorary FOW member as thanks.

Park Serve Day 4/20/13

Steve asked the FOW to pay for plants/shrubs for Wompy and Ames Nowell for the upcoming Park Serve Day. It was decided to bring this up at the next meeting again. There was some additional discussion about how to generate extra publicity for the event.

Bow Hunting (continued)

Bill and Steve G summarized the current situation and explained some about the legislative process (see also previous minutes). Bill remarked that, so far, about half of the received comments from FOW members were for, and half against allowing park-wide bow hunting. Bill pointed out that the FOW does not necessarily need to take a position on this issue, and that this would make little difference in the legislative process. Steve G suggested that the current proposed legislation needs more work and that we should wait for public hearings and further revisions. It was therefore decided to bring this issue up at a later date, and Sandy C suggested we mention this on the FOW website (Bill will do this). There was some additional discussion about the use of rifles in the park, and Steve G mentioned that one of the changes he is proposing is entirely disallowing rifle hunting in the park. On a question about the timeframe for the proposed changes, Steve G said that this was currently unknown.

Fallen Trees

Steve G is waiting for outside help from DCR to remove dead/fallen trees, but they are taking long so he is working at it himself in the meantime. Steve G asks all park visitors to report fallen tree locations to him. Bill B will ask Eric O to forward this to all TrailWatchers and Steve Cobble (of SEMass NEMBA) to mountainbikers.

FOW Membership Drive

Bill mentioned that it may be a good idea to do some outreach projects to get new membership. Ideas mentioned in the discussion that followed included: signs/posters at bike shops, participation in REI/EMS events, having a table at other's events in Wompy and include brochures in the "bags" that participants often get, distribute map with application info to all campers, ensuring that there's good information about FOW and how to join at all kiosks.

It was suggested that Steve G would ask organizations that hold events in the park to inform the FOW as well, and we can list them in our calendar.

Anti Dog Litter Signs

John reported that he met with DCR and the DCR has agreed to put the signs developed by the Boston Snow Dogs group back up in Wompatuck. A prototype was shown, and John mentioned that they will be slightly improved from the current version before they are put up.

Old business

None.

New Business

Ames Nowell DCR maps

Steve G told us that there has been some recent interest from the DCR to develop a new trail map for Ames Nowell, since the old one is very out of date. Lars reported that he, Steve G and Malcolm N have been in contact with the DCR. Lars has sent a lot of GPS data from a recent survey of the park to the DCR. Additionally, Steve G is also planning to number trail intersections and put up intersection markers, similar to the system used in Wompatuck.

South Shore Science Center

Steve G had received a letter from South Shore Natural Science Center in Norwell about bringing their events and demos to Wompy and mentioned that this could be of particular interest for campers and possibly school classes. Steve G wondered whether the FOW would be interested in funding such programs. The responses were generally positive, so SteveG will look further into this and contact SSNSC.

Next meeting will be on March 18.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:31pm.

Submitted by Lars Ahlzen (VP).