

F O W
MINUTES OF MEETING

March 16, 2009

Present: Bill B.(President), Lars A., (V.P.), Alma M. (Secretary), Jane G. (Treasurer), Sandy C. (Membership), Jim R. (Historian), Steve G. (Park Supervisor), Eric O., Peter & Mary Williams, Paul P., Sandy F., Malcolm, Carl, Dana S., Vicky (webmistress) & Mark Schow

Present: 17

1) Opening Remarks

A round of introductions took place. Bill (Pres.) mentioned that he will apply for a grant in April from Pilgrim's parent company.

2) Vice President Report (Lars)

We've had a busy month since February. Most of the items are on the agenda, and will be discussed later in the meeting.

3) Secretary's Report (Alma)

The February Minutes were accepted.

4) Treasurer's Report (Jane)

Jane noted we have about \$9000 in our account. She passed around a Treasurer's Report with our finances detailed.

Steve G. gave us a \$100 donation check from the Irish Road Bowlers, who regularly use a section of the park.

FOW will pick up half of the approximately \$82 spent for lunch at the recent Trail Day. The rest will be paid by S.E. Mass. NEMBA.

5) Membership Report (Sandy C.)

Sandy will add the Irish Road Bowling Association to our membership list as a Benefactor.

We have approximately 58 member entries, and will need to look at membership renewals in the upcoming months. Sandy F. offered her help to call members. Bill said we send renewal notices once yearly. Those who join midyear get a full year as a courtesy. Renewals aren't due until May.

6) Membership Initiatives & Brochure (Jane, Pam, Sandy F., Lars)

Jane was unable to attend, and Pam was absent so Sandy F. reported. She noted that they came up with an advertisement flyer for "Trail Care Days." This colorful poster was covered with plastic and hung up in various places in the park, as well as in Hingham,

and may have attracted an additional 10 people to the recent Trail Day. She suggested we attract more people to the next one by having it advertised at the high school for Community Service credit. Sandy C. also suggested having it advertised in the Hingham Journal, as both were successful in reaching new people. Several of the places they hung up flyers were: Tedeschi, CVS, various pizza parlors, ice cream parlors, the library, Starbucks, and a luncheonette. Vicky wondered if Hingham had a community website like Brockton does, so we could enter our information on it.

Sandy C. noted they had an idea of creating a poster listing different activities that can be done at the park as incentive to draw in visitors. It also mentions joining FOW. He will come up with a more creative idea, complete with graphics, by the next meeting. The idea is to hang it up at REI, as well as in various places within the park. Alma also suggested using the community boards at various supermarkets. Sandy C. said we need to discuss the cost of printing the flyers and posters in color, due to the expense involved in this. Bill B. asked that those on this committee should ask FOW to reimburse any of their out of pocket expenses.

Lars reported they were working on a new brochure. They are not done with it, as it's a "work in progress." They are working on improving the text, to make it clearer who we are and why people should join, as well as more information about the park. He began with the current brochure as a starting point, and worked with the text and layout. He passed around a sample copy to give us an idea of what we are aiming for in its appearance. Due to the beauty of what we were presented, we definitely would like to print it in color, and would need to shop around to get a good price for the quantity we need to print. Lars has a \$300 quote from Vistaprint for 1000 color copies: while 5000 would be \$510. Carl suggested he also check a place called "Overnight Prints" for pricing.

Steve G. said we could pay for a separate phone line at Wompatuck and use that number on the brochure, instead of Eric's number. Jane checks the P.O. box at least once per week. The website has Sandy's address, but everything should be sent to the P.O. box. If she's on vacation for a couple of weeks, perhaps someone could open it to see what's there.

Sandy C. said the admin e-mail address comes to him, and he forwards the information to the officers, and wondered if he should be the one getting that information. Bill B. said that if he doesn't mind continuing this, then it wouldn't be a problem. Any questions about the park could be forwarded to Steve G.'s e-mail address.

Bill B. said he's very impressed with the brochure. It's a "grabber." He said we should send a PDF around to see if anyone would need to make any wording changes, as well as get a new phone line in Wompatuck and get some pricing quotes. Steve G. said we could use the voice mail without an actual phone line. Bill would like us to work on getting this number, review the text, then go ahead and print the brochures. Lars agreed on this format.

Jane asked who would be in charge of the answering machine, and Bill said he wouldn't mind calling in once per week to listen to messages, unless someone wanted to do it as their regular assignment. Steve G. said messages could be forwarded to different people, based on who the caller was wanted to reach. A motion was made, and passed, to get a phone line installed. Steve G. will look into pricing options. If a physical hookup is needed, we will use the Gatehouse. Steve G. will handle the logistics.

Carl suggested an internet phone service for \$25/year, but Bill said for this service you get something that plugs into your phone, but no one can call you. Mark also suggested a T-Mobile cell phone plan where messages could be checked on a semi-regular basis. Paul will donate a T-Mobile phone that we could use, and will investigate the cost of this type of plan. Steve G. will look into a landline, and Paul will look into the price of a T-Mobile plan

Lars would like those who have great photos to send them to him, as they could be used in the brochure. Carl suggested making sure to have some photos in blue to promote the Trail Watch program, as well as making sure bikers are wearing a helmet to promote bike safety. It was also suggested to put winter and summer photos for variety. Lars noted that the committee would like to take some of the information from the brochure and make it into a poster to put into the kiosks and other places. This would be instituted once the brochure is done.

7) Webpage Report (Vicky)

We now have a Google calendar that all officers can edit, so she won't have the sole responsibility of updating it. She said we had mentioned wanting to integrate the Park's use permits into the calendar, so this would be a good venue for it. Vicky is also working on members being able to pay online, beta-testing the service, before the brochure goes "live."

Steve G. said he has a calendar for the various park permits. Groups are supposed to let him know 60 days in advance, thus, the information could be posted onto our calendar at least 30 days in advance. The calendar is hanging on the kitchen closet door in the other building, and this information could be added at least once monthly. Bill asked if he would like to post this information on Google calendar, and Vicky said we could add him as an administrator. Google calendar will automatically send him an e-mail after Bill adds him as an administrator. Steve G. needs to know about all events that are in the park, so he will be also able to note if events that have been posted have received a permit. We could also put a link to the DCR Special Use Permit form and directions.

Soon, she will begin transitioning the website's photos to Spring photos. Bill noted that one of those who attended the recent Trail day has a website with World War II photos. He suggested we link that page to our page. Vicky would like us to list things that we've done in the park, bridges built, x number of volunteer hours, showcased projects, etc. Lars has the number of feet in bridges that we've built in the park. Vicki would also like us to post things that we want to do, and where we're going. Sandy C. suggested posting

a “Wish/Need List” of items that we need, such as clean fill for an upcoming project. We can discuss this list further at another meeting.

Peter suggested we have a Pre-written Petition on the site, with a link to a form letter with park funding requests and/or house bills related to the park. It would have Senator/Representative names, and could contain information about upcoming bills that we would like to support. This could be printed out and mailed to them by each person who accesses the site. Peter is interested in doing this for us.

Bill read an e-mail he had received from Steve C. listing concerns about pavement, guardrail problems and other issues related to the park, and would like FOW to write a letter to a particular State Representative listing these concerns and asking for monetary support. Steve G. said that Engineering has done some of these projects, but many have been ready for years without forthcoming money. He feels that it’s time for FOW to write a formal letter asking for these jobs to get done. Bill will discuss the particulars with Steve G. to get further information to draft a letter about this.

8) Trail Care Projects

- Review of 3/14

Bill noted that about 30 people attended, with two on bikes as well as a family. We split into 5 walking groups to cover 5 different areas in the forest. Two worked on the horse trail and others worked on other trails. Many had said they’d come due to the posters they’d seen advertising it, as well as the mention in the newspaper. To have this many people attend on a chilly morning was quite impressive.

- Plan for 4/4

Some projects for this day would include doing some clearing on South Field. Steve G. will be in Florida, so he will set up for us beforehand. It was suggested we work on maintenance of the race course. Bill said we want to give the Boy Scouts some work to do, but we can also send others out on the course to see what it looks like.

Dana asked what we need to do on South Field, and Steve G. noted we need to clear some of the field back, due to the large numbers of racers expected in Sept. After the sumac is cut, we will fill the sinkholes. Eric said that he and Steve C. will go out on Wed. and put some stakes at the perimeter of what we’d like done. They will work with Steve G. to come up with at least 2 projects that could be done on the 4th. Alma wondered if it would all grow back again before Sept., and Bill said we should cut back much further towards the tree line. Steve G. wants us to work on trails that have corroded. Bill wants us to get some fill out there to work the trails. Bill will look for the Tool Trailer, and try to have it available for this day.

- Bridges- Research results

Options for making the bridges less slippery were discussed. Peter noted that an epoxy material applied with a grid has been used, but he feels that may work better on concrete bridges. He feels that with wood bridges, we’d still have to pressure wash them. Steve G. doesn’t think bleach would cause any problems with the woods but, since we’re crossing

wetlands, we need to make sure of the type of product used on the bridges. Peter said he uses a product that is sprayed on, which gets diluted when it's washed off the wood. Peter said a bridge could be done in 20 minutes.

Dana rides in Duxbury Forest. They put cross hatches on it with a saw, and feels that this could be an answer. Our bridges are shadier and in the wetlands, so this wouldn't work. Peter will continue looking for more information. Once we have a couple of options, we will try them on a few bridges and see what works and what doesn't work.

9) FOW Motto Discussion

- Suggestion was made of "Having Fun, Making a Difference"

An online discussion of having a motto took place with this suggestion. It could be placed on a t-shirt or hat. "Have Fun! Make a Difference!" was voted on, and passed, as our new motto.

10) Park Serve Day Planning

Saturday April 25th is Park Service Day. Some suggested jobs would be to remove some stone from last summer's trail work, clear a big heavy deadfall at Heron Fall, start clearing South Field for the Landmine, survey areas for the Landmine with Eric, or buy and plant trees in a grassy area near the Gatehouse. Steve G. has to submit a list of what we need. He'll ask for flowers, trashbags, tools, and gloves. Paul suggested planting trees near a granite monument. Alma suggested getting kid size tools for children who participate with their families.

Bill said one of the most successful Park Serve Day he'd ever been to was at Borderland. They had many projects that were within walking distance, which allowed many people to participate.

Sandy F. noted that she's taking a master gardening class and it's predicted that within 15 years, a particular beetle will wipe out certain trees. She wants to check out the type of trees we'd need to plant that would not be harmed by this beetle, as well as trees that would look good after a certain number of years. She suggested planting bushes, and will look into types that would be avoided by deer. She will pay for them up front, and be reimbursed by FOW. We will buy about \$250 worth of plantings. Paul will look into pricing trees, and talk to Sandy F. to make sure they last through the upcoming beetle infestation.

11) Muck Trucks

Jim D. found some muck trucks on the internet and sent Bill an e-mail about them. A muck truck is a powered wheelbarrow, with 4 wheels, that can hold hundreds of pounds of material. Two that were listed on Craig's List have 5.5 horsepower engines, with one reverse and 4 forward speeds. Bill will look further to see if these are still available and if another organization would be willing to buy one, since we don't need both of them.

12) Old Business

- Lars mentioned that last summer, an old rail bed trail was cleared which once was open and rideable, but now has a lot of poison ivy on it. We need to decide what to use to kill it that's acceptable by DCR. Steve G. said we need to have a licensed professional take care of it, and Mark noted that's also Massachusetts law. Bill said we had intended to make this a family friendly trail, on a flat trail, but the poison ivy negates that idea. Thus, to do it legally, we need to get an estimate to see how much it would cost an expert to come in and spray. Steve G. agreed this would be the best route to follow, and Lars will find out information. Mark said leaves of about an inch need to be in place for them to be sprayed. If anyone has experience in this area, contact Lars.
- Paul wants to know if there's anyone at the Visitor Center on weekends, and will volunteer his time on Sunday mornings. He will work out a schedule with Steve G.
- Eric needs approval for capital expenditures. For the Landmine Race, he wants a stage and bleachers that would seat 40, and was able to find an elevated 20x20 stage. It was also suggested that Steve G. build a stage and framework to put a tarp over it. We have timber and cement forms, but would need to spend man hours building it. Bill suggested we spend time building our own, so it could be used in other years, as well as by other groups. Depending on what we do, Eric thought approx. \$1200 would cover the rental. T-shirts would run about \$450, with another \$1000 or so for prizes, as well as gravel, dirt (gravelly, clean fill for a berm), crushed stone, race expenses like tape, etc. Carl noted we'd also have to incorporate the cost of the military theme. Eric would like to get the supplies here early, so we could get the work begun on South Field and have it set over the summer. Based on Paul checking pricing at a cheaper place, we'd need about \$800 for the dirt. Paul also suggested getting a 30 foot long drop deck trailer that's about 2 feet high and 8 feet wide, with a temporary cover, and will do some investigating on pricing. Eric feels that about \$2500 would be needed to get these various projects moving, and this motion was passed.
- Eric reported that last August, Trail Watch Wompatuck was begun to act as "eyes and ears" in the park. Those participating have a blue uniform they wear while cycling. He has about 20 people on board and, in May, will set up a 10x10 tent in the park to introduce the group to park users. Steve G. said the program is very successful, and he gets a lot of reports that are very helpful. The Trail Watchers fill out a form every time they go on a ride. Bill noted that we keep track of all of our volunteer hours, which are used for future grant applications.
- Jane wondered if anyone has given thank you letters to people who have given items and monetary items to the park. She feels it's important that those who help the park should be properly thanked, and would like to be the one to send out this letter. Mark noted that for income tax purposes, donations over \$250 need to have something in the thank you letter stating that no goods were exchanged for the

monies donated. Anything below that amount can use their cancelled check as a receipt. Vicky said we have Bike Barn on our website listed as a corporate donor, and we could add more who make large donations.

- Eric said he'd had a discussion with the Hingham Fire Department about having a presence at the race, along with an ambulance. He wondered if we should offer some monies up front for the ATV they are funding as incentive. Paul suggested we buy them a trailer for the ATV, so that it's already loaded up and ready to go. A motorcycle trailer might cost about \$600-\$800, with his connections. Bill suggested we offer to buy them a trailer, contingent on them getting the ATV to go with it, and we'll hold the monies in trust for them. Eric made a motion to offer the Hingham Fire Department a trailer, and it was passed.
- Eric would like to have some vets present for the singing of the National Anthem at the beginning of the Landmine, and asked Jim to find some veterans for the occasion. Mark also suggested having a little history write up on the website of what people will be riding by during the race. Eric said that Lars has an idea of how to incorporate this information.

13) New Business

- Jim would like to offer an interpretive History Walk for the Hingham Land Conservation Trust, and wondered if we could include the Annex as he knows someone who worked at the Inhibitor Plant. He thought it could be a type of military tour, and could also include the Shingle Mill. Steve G. thought it could work.

14) Future Meeting dates

The next meeting is set for Monday, April 27th.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Submitted by,

Alma Ramos-McDermott
Secretary