

Friends of Wompatuck State Park

Minutes of Meeting - 3/15/2010

Present: Bill B (president), Malcolm N, Lars A (VP), Tyler E (Trail VP), Sandy C (Membership), Don C, Wayne S, John C (S. Shore Endurance Events), Lisa P (Pan Mass Challenge), Kelly H (Brockton Girl Scouts), Carl C.

The meeting had a less than perfect start – at the time of the meeting, there was nobody with a key to the visitors center. At approximately 7:20pm, it was decided to hold the meeting at the (somewhat unorthodox) location of Papa Gino's Pizza at Queen Anne's corner. The first vote for the evening was to order two large pizzas for the attendees.

Opening remarks and introductions

The meeting was formally opened at about 7:40 pm. President Bill Boles welcomed the attendees, and everyone introduced themselves.

Lars pointed out that we had no secretary present (Pam J had to cancel at the last minute), and somehow ended up “volunteering” to take minutes.

VP Report

Lars Ahlzen (VP) noted that we were already late and a busy agenda for the night. Since he did not have much of importance to report, we decided to proceed with the next item.

Treasurer's Report

Jane Goldberg (treasurer) was not present, but Bill Boles gave us a quick briefing. With approximately \$12,600 in the account, our balance was down a little from last month due to expenses for the Landmine race and a few other things. There were no objections to this report.

Webmaster report

Vicki Schow (webmaster) was not present.

Trail report

Tyler Eusden (Trail VP) noted that the trail day on March 14 was canceled due to the recent torrential rainfall. The next scheduled trail day is April 10.

Lars said that Steve Cobble had suggested we hold another trail day on March 21, a week after the canceled one. Lars made a motion to hold another trail day on March 21, and this motion was accepted. Bill Boles recommended bringing bikes, gloves and hand loppers to that trail day, as there will most likely be trail cutbacks. He also noted that we may work on bridge building, such as the Doane Street bog bridge.

Bill Boles noted that two lucky FOW members had won mountainbikes in the NEMBA drawing for volunteering at trail days during 2009, and encouraged everyone to show up at as many trail days as

possible.

Rail trail

Bill Boles briefly described the rail trail from the Cohasset T-station to Wompatuck for those unfamiliar with the project. He noted that the trail itself is finished and in beautiful shape - and has been for more than a year - but that the part of Wompatuck that it connects to is still closed due to asbestos and unsafe buildings, and that the trail is therefore useless (and officially closed).

A DCR stewardship meeting was held in Hull on March 12. At the meeting, Bill spoke to the commissioner about this problem, and was promised that it would be finished and opened this year.

Summer Classic Road Race

John Childs from South Shore Endurance, a non-profit organization affiliated to the Road Runners Club of America, visited the meeting and presented plans that the organization have to organize a trail race on Saturday, June 5, and a “sport expo” afterwards. The approximately 4-mile road race will take place in Whitney Woods, starting at the parking lot opposite Stop and Shop in Cohasset, and ending at the “Old Colony Square” lot near the Cohasset T-Station. Part of the race would use the new rail trail.

Additionally, South Shore Endurance would like to have a bike ride/race during this day, most likely along the same route. John noted that the FOW has experience of organizing bike races, and that the rail-trail is one of the trails leading into Wompatuck, and wondered whether the FOW would be interested in co-organizing such a bike ride. Since many details about the bike race are still not finalized, he was also asking for feedback on the idea.

Bill said out that this may not be a perfect fit for the FOW – especially since no part of the race would take place in Wompatuck. Bill and Tyler also expressed concerns that 4 miles is shorter than most mountain bike races, but may be suitable for a “family” ride.

It was also pointed out that, since this is the National Trails Day, the FOW has a trail day scheduled for this date, which makes it less likely that we could help out.

Pan Mass Challenge

Lisa Patterson from Pan Mass Challenge visited the meeting to talk about their plan for an bike event on June 13. Lisa had previously met with Steve Cobble (of FOW/NEMBA), and Bill said that this had also been discussed in a NEMBA meeting the day before.

The event would be a kids ride, with a few different loops for different ages/levels. Previous years, Pan Mass has held rides on local streets, but to ease organization and avoid road closures, this year it will be held in Wompatuck state park. The original plan was for the main event to be at South Field, but after talking with Steve Gammon, it was decided that the Visitors' Center would be more suitable.

Lisa asked if the FOW (and NEMBA) could help out with co-organizing and leading two mountain bike rides, for kids 8-12 and 13-15 years old. There would also be an opportunity to promote FOW and NEMBA at the event.

Bill said that between FOW and NEMBA, we can very likely find enough interested people to help out with this, and that we can probably handle a large number of riders if needed. He also explained some benefits of an unmarked, guided course, that would leave some room for modification. If they still want

help with signs, Lisa would let us know. Carl noted that many trails in Wompy are rough and may not be ideal for wheel sizes under 20”.

Lisa also wanted to provide maps of the rides online (both for riders and for their parents). She would talk to Lars about this.

Lisa was also wondering whether Jim Rose, the FOW historian, would be interested in attend the event to share some of the park's history. Jim was not present at the meeting to comment.

Brockton Girl Scouts

Kelly Howe, a Brockton girl scout leader, attended the meeting and said that she would have 16 girl scouts, 5-7 years old, available around the end of April if we can provide them with suitable jobs in the park.

Bill noted that there is a trail day on April 24, which could be a good opportunity. Suitable work may be, for example, trail cutbacks or planting flowers. Bill told Kelly to ask the FOW if they needed money for projects such as planting flowers.

T-Bones Catering

Bill Boles mentioned that the FOW received an offer from T-bones catering to sell food at upcoming events. It was noted that this could be an option, for example, at the 2010 Landmine race.

Uno's

Bill Boles said that Uno's pizzeria had a deal where, if a “Friends”-organization (or similar) eats there, 25% of the bill goes back to that organization, and said that this could be worth looking into for the FOW, if we would be interested.

Old business

- GPS Routes: Lars said that he hasn't had as much time as he wishes to work on the GPS routes project since last month, but asked anyone who is out in the park that has a GPS to record the track and send it to him (lars@ahlzen.com) to use for testing and, if a good route, eventually put up on the website. GPX format is ideal, but he can accept most formats.
- Concern was expressed over the wording on the hunting information at the South Field info kiosk, and that it was ambiguous regarding hunting on Sundays. Steve Gammon (park supervisor) was not at the meeting to comment on this.

Next meeting date

Bill said that he would be unavailable on April 12, and suggested having the next meeting a week earlier. There were no objections, so **the next meeting will be held April 5.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Submitted by Lars Ahlzen.