



March 21, 2011

Minutes of Meeting

Present

Bill B. (President), Lars A. (Vice President), Pam J. (Secretary), Carl C. (Trails), Sandy C. (Membership), Steve G. (Park Supervisor), John K., (FOW), Anthony F. (Boston Snow Dogs, Inc. – BSD), Tania N. (BSD), Nesto (BSD)

Number present: 10 on the first snowy day of Spring!

Meeting convened at 7:02 PM

Minutes are presented in Agenda order.

Opening Remarks and Introductions (Bill)

President Bill Boles opened the meeting. We all introduced ourselves and spoke about our interests, roles and favorite activities. Bill reported that several people worked on trail maintenance over the past weekend! A successful effort! But more work to be done!

VP Report (Lars)

Lars mentioned that REI re-issued the grant check that had been misplaced. Lars said he would address other issues as they were presented in the agenda.

Secretary's Report (Pam)

Pam asked the members present if there were any corrections to the minutes from the February FOW meeting. Bill noted one correction in the Landmine section to read, "We discussed the benefits of having placed an ad for 3 issues in Single Tracks *last* year and agreed that we should place the ad for 2011." A motion was made and seconded to accept the amended February Secretary's Report; the vote was unanimous to accept.

Treasurer's Report (Bill reporting for Jane)

Bill reported that there have been a number of miscellaneous expenditures during the past month, including the PO Box renewal, the Single Tracks ad for Landmine, and website fees. The current balance in the FOW account is \$17,353.08. A motion was made and seconded to accept the February Treasurer's Report; the vote was unanimous to accept.

Membership (Sandy)

Sandy reported there are currently 102 members listed; we had 2 renewals and 2 new members. Sandy reported that there are also 29 members who are up for renewal.

Webpage Report (Vicki - absent)

We will look forward to Vicki's report at the next meeting.

Recent Trail Care Activities (Carl)

Trail Care Planning

Carl reported that the mesh covering had been stripped from the bridge at NW5 and that the wood had been left in the woods. The strapping was left on the bridge; the bridge needs cleats to help prevent shifting of the bridge boards which eventually tore the mesh covering. Steve G. said the bridge could be secured.

Discussion ensued regarding the FOW tool shed. There are a few items in the shed that belong to NEMBA, including fire rakes. Carl will begin to purchase tools for FOW using the \$500 in funding that had been approved at a prior meeting.

Carl would like to purchase a “bob trailer” to be used to haul tools out for trail care. The estimated cost is \$250 retail; Carl will attempt to find a discount and hopes to be able to get a bob trailer for around \$180.

Carl would also like to have a work bench in the shed. Steve G. said he has materials and could build the bench. Question was raised about power supply to the shed. Steve G. said we may be able to extend the current electrical connection and will look into it. Another option is to use an extension cord.

Carl also requested that the floor be painted. Another suggestion was to purchase racks to hang tools, and to also purchase a few “fix-a-flat” kits for the muck truck and wheel barrows.

Steve G. informed the group that we had been approved by the Town of Hingham to continue repair and maintenance efforts.

The Mass Bay Road Club has been working on cleaning the paved loop near South Field.

Park Serve Day

Bill addressed the schedule of upcoming trail care events and noted that we have one Trail Care event scheduled for April 9th, and that Park Serve Day is scheduled for April 16th. Recommendation was made to combine the April 9th Trail Care event with the Park Serve Day on April 16th. All agreed this was a good idea. Pam will email the notice to the FOW membership. Bill suggested we plan for flower planting; Steve G. will either get plants from the State, or, if not delivered in time, he will purchase. Steve G. also indicated that tree planting is better in the Fall. The date for the National Trail Day was announced as June 4th.

Bridge Branding

We discussed three options for bridge branding: (1) sand blasting over a template; (2) using a branding iron; and (3) making routed signs. Steve G. said he could get more information about the template option; Bill said he would get more information about the branding iron. It was noted that if a branding iron is used, we need to be sure it will fit on the width of the strapping and bridge boards.

Recent Trail Care Activities - Continued (Carl)

Bridge – Anti-Slip Materials

Bill indicated that all screening materials need to be removed from bridges. The problem with the material tested at the NW5 bridge is due to the shifting of the bridge boards. Cleats can be placed underneath the bridge to prevent the shifting in the future. We need to wait for drier conditions before we start to work on the bridges. Bill recommended that whatever we use going forward, we should test on one bridge first. Lars indicated that the REI grant money is slated for bridge repair and should be used before the end of 2011. Pam will contact Sandy F. regarding the decking material she has used in a marina setting; Pam will also email Al A. to get estimates of the weight and load from horses on bridges.

Eagle Scout Bridge (Steve G.)

Steve reported that Nick completed a good amount of work on the bridge, including pouring the footings, and decking it over to cover the span of the river. FOW will now take over the completion of the project, including how to finish the walkway. Steve G. said that washed stone is good for trail hardening, but should not be used with 100' buffer of wetlands.

Rail Trail Progress (Steve G.)

Steve G. reported that there has been no decision to date on the rail trail.

Adopt-A-Trail (Tyler – absent)

We will look forward to Tyler's report at the next meeting. We can address whether or not Tyler will continue to manage this effort in addition to his responsibilities for Landmine, or whether Adopt-A-Trail should be managed by another FOW member at the next meeting.

Wompatuck Map (Lars)

Lars will continue working on the new map, which will include sponsorship opportunities. Steve G. estimated that the DCR map supply will be depleted sometime in May.

Doane Street and Dog Issues (Steve G.)

We still do not have any word on whether or not the Cohasset Dog Officer will address the issue of dog owners not cleaning up after their dogs. John K. suggested we post a sign at the entrance to Doane Street and offered to have the sign made if FOW will provide the language and design for the sign. Pam and Steve G. will work to design a sign. John also mentioned that the Environmental Police may have jurisdiction with regard to dog waste.

Landmine Classic Discussion (Mark and Vicki S., and Tyler)

Bill reported that he had received an email from Tyler to provide an update on current Landmine activities, including work on obtaining permits from DCR and USA Cycling; processing the updates to the "BikeReg" website; and plans to re-route the course at NW3 to avoid two-way traffic.

Old Business

Conservation Committee Meetings

Steve G. reported that the Town of Hingham approved the permit for FOW to continue trail and park maintenance activities. The following meetings are scheduled for Conservation Commission presentations:

March 28 7 PM Town of Scituate
April 5 7 PM Town of Norwell
April 7 7 PM Town of Cohasset

While discussing the permitting process, Bill mentioned that someone (or a group of people) has been making modifications to the Pine Run trail, including making higher berms and re-routing parts of the trail. Bill will ask Tyler to follow up with a group who had previously been making trail changes and ask if they are the group that has been working on Pine Run. If it is the same group, Bill will advise Tyler to tell them they cannot be making any trail modifications.

PMC Kids Ride

Sandy reported that he had attended the March 9th meeting, and believes there will be another volunteer meeting on April 6th. The PMC Kids Ride is scheduled to be held in Wompatuck on June 12th.

EMS Club Day and “Roll It Forward” Project

Sandy C. reminded the group that Club Day will be held at EMS on April 8th and 9th. Sandy will be able to attend on April 8th, and will bring FOW brochures to be displayed along with the NEMBA materials that Steve C. will have on hand. Any FOW member will be able to take advantage of a 20% discount at the EMS Club Day!

And a reminder to the FOW group: donate your used bike to EMS to be overhauled and given to an inner city kid as part of the “Roll It Forward” project! Anyone who donates a bike will be entitled to a 20% discount at EMS!

Historic Maps and Works of John Richardson

Alma forwarded detailed information regarding the preservation and protection of these important works. Steve G. indicated that all materials in the notebooks are copies and are stored in acid-free sleeves. The originals are stored with the State. Lars made scans of the maps and saved them on a digital drive, which has also been stored with the copies in the FOW storage area. Pam will follow up with other protective measures cited in Alma’s email.

New Business

Boston Snow Dogs, Inc. (BSD)

Several enthusiastic members of BSD attended the FOW meeting! BSD was founded in 2006 “as a playgroup and amateur team to help introduce people and their dog(s) to urban mushing with a scooter, bike or ATV.” BSD is a 501(c)(7) – Social and Recreational Club. Members of the group were present to introduce themselves and their club to the FOW group, and to establish a working relationship with the FOW and with Wompatuck State Park.

Boston Snow Dogs, Inc. – Continued

The group currently has approximately 220 members, and will be working on developing its Board and Bylaws. BSD has asked permission to use the Visitor Center facilities to hold Board meetings, and, in exchange for a waiver of the use fee, BSD will sponsor a sled demo in Wompatuck. The BSD Board will be meeting at the Visitor Center on March 26th. Steve G. suggested we have a “Wompatuck Day” and invite the BSD group to hold their demonstration then. (Along with the horses and “road bowlers”.) ☺

The group would also like to plan a camping weekend for approximately 20 members over the Memorial Day weekend, and would like to have access to South Field. Steve G. advised the group that they would need permits for use of the Visitor Center and South Field; all camping reservations have to be made through Reserve America. The group can identify and request campsites that are in close proximity by using the campground map. The “South Loop” is also a good venue for the dogs on that weekend.

Concern was raised about dog owners being responsible for cleaning up after the dogs and about sharing trails with other park users. There have been many complaints from park users about dog owners not properly disposing of dog feces in the park. Many owners simply let their dogs run and never bother cleaning up after them. Other owners may bag the feces, but they leave the bags by the side of the trails or roads. This has been an ongoing problem for the Park. The FOW group asked that BSD inform all of its members that it is their responsibility to clean up after their dogs and to properly dispose of all waste. BSD assured the group present that all efforts would be made to leave the park clear of dog waste.

With regard to trail use, BSD indicated that their group follows the rule to yield to all other trail users. BSD did, however, raise concern that there are also horses on the trails, and that presents another issue for the dogs. The group will make every effort to be safe and responsible in the Park.

Great American Backyard Campout

Lars relayed a conversation he had with Dane (REI) regarding the Great American Backyard Campout on June 25th. Dane would like to bring an REI group to Wompatuck and asked if FOW would be able to support the effort by having a few FOW volunteers work with the REI group. Steve G. said that there are 4 “admin” sites in the campground, however, REI anticipates there will be 20-30 people. REI will have to make arrangements for site reservations through Reserve America. The group discussed this request; no one present would be able to work with REI on that weekend.

Next Meeting Date

Although not discussed, the next regular meeting should be held on:

April 18, 2011 – Which happens to be Patriots Day! Please confirm that this date is ok!
Visitor Center – 7 PM

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Pam Johnson
FOW Secretary*