

F O W
MINUTES OF MEETING

April 27, 2009

Present: Bill B.(President), Alma M. (Secretary), Jane G. (Treasurer), Sandy C. (Membership), Jim R. (Historian), Steve G. (Park Supervisor), Vicky S. (webmistress), Pam J., Dana D. (new member), Carl C., Mark S., Chuck H. & Kim M. (visitors)

Present: 13

1) Opening Remarks

A round of introductions took place.

2) Secretary's Report (Alma)

The March Minutes were accepted.

3) Treasurer's Report (Jane)

Jane reported that we have a little over \$9000 in our account. Eric is purchasing gravel, and has a check from FOW. Steve G. reported that a roadway was built over a "muddy place" at South Field. Some stumps have to be pulled with a backhoe, and then Eric will purchase the gravel.

4) Membership Report (Sandy C.)

Sandy noted that we have 56 entries, and recently received a \$100 membership donation. We will need to look into renewals this month, which will start getting sent out via e-mail. Members who joined prior to last October 1st will get a renewal notice within the next couple of weeks, followed up by a snail mail response if necessary.

5) Webmaster Report (Vicky)

Vicky said our Google checkout online account should be ready within the next couple of days. After the account is officially verified, it will go "live" for members to be able to renew online. They will also have the opportunity to print out an application and renew via snail mail. Sandy C. will receive an e-mail whenever someone renews online. When Vicky is sure it is working, several of us will join online to get it started.

Pam asked if we could sell t-shirts online, and Vicky said it could be added as a "basket." Pam volunteered to mail them out, and will get some mailers to package them. She and Sandy C. will discuss the cost, which may be rolled into the cost of the t-shirts. The shirts are \$10, without shipping.

Steve G. said that the DCR name should be corrected on one of the pages, and Vicky will take care of this.

6) Bear Cove Park

We received a thank you letter from Brooke Robbins, Chairman of the Bare Cove Park Committee, thanking us for the sign that adorns their guard shack at the Fort Hill entrance, about Scott McMillan. They were very appreciative.

7) Membership initiatives & brochure (Jane, Pam, Sandy, Carl, Lars [absent])

Lars designed a lovely, full-color, high quality, shiny brochure for FOW, and received everyone's thanks, in absentia. Pam suggested putting a brochure into the Wompatuck Trail Map, but worried it might become litter. Steve said he never sees maps or brochures as litter, so she will try out a few to see what happens.

Bill asked if we could include our FOW brochure in the camper's welcome package, and Steve said it would be fine. Pam will also set up a table at Wompatuck for upcoming events. Steve will send event information to Vicky to post on our calendar. Pam also asked about banners, and Jane told her to check with Eric because he just purchased some for the Trailwatch and the Landmine.

Pam suggested we have a FOW event in the Visitor Center for a meet and greet. Bill suggested we do it after the Landmine Classic. She asked Sandy C. if we have a newspaper contact and he said we do, so she'd like him to get us some newspaper publicity.

Pam ended with saying they had a lot of fun putting together the brochure, and gave Lars all the credit for putting together our new brochure. She suggested everyone send him a "shout out" via e-mail thanking him. The new brochure will be placed into every kiosk and on the campground. Bill, again, talked about how wonderful it was to have such a spectacular brochure.

8) Trail Care Projects – reviews:

4/4: Bill reported that many people showed up to help. We had about 33 people in working groups, with families, kids, bikers and equestrians represented. Flyers were placed in coffee shops, and we also had a newspaper mention and a high school announcement. In addition, work was done on South Field. Steve said the field has doubled in size. Mark suggested having Lars use his GPS to ride the old line to show the new size. It was suggested we look at Google Earth to get a "before" picture to compare with an "after" photo.

4/25: This past Saturday, we had people working on trails creating cuts, picking up stones, etc. while others planted flowers and shrubs near the Visitor Center. In addition, flowers were planted at the guard shack and bushes planted by the Wompatuck sign.

9) Plans for the next Trail Care date (Sunday Aug. 23rd)

The next Trail Care will be Sunday, August 23rd. Much of the focus will be on the Landmine Classic preparations. We had hoped to build a bridge at NW 13 East towards the gate near Union Street. The 4 red dots on the map go to W9. Just after the 4th dot, there is a very wet area that has rubble spread on it now so it could be used, therefore, a

bridge will be built there, as there are other bridges in the area and this area definitely needs a bridge. Since we didn't have enough people to build it on the 25th, we may be able to build it that day.

Jane suggested having a "bridge day" and just build bridges on that day. It was noted that at least 6-8 people are needed, as well as "muscle weight" to carry materials to the site. Pam suggested we send a "special invitation" to FOW members to build the bridge. Alma suggested "Build a Bridge to Friendship with FOW" as the theme for the day. Steve said building an equestrian bridge is a much bigger deal than building a bike-type bridge, so they would need to be built on two different days. Bill said it took 3 days to build the last equestrian bridge that was done by the group, and is a major project he'd rather do in the fall before the bugs come. The bridge near N13 could be done in about an hour with 8-10 people. It was noted that the bridge should be built way before we need to and way after where one thinks the mud ends.

Several dates were discussed for an FOW Bridge & Party Day. Steve noted that Sunday June 21st is National Park Day, but it's also Father's Day. Saturday June 6th is National Trails Day as well as D-Day. It may also be a NEMBA day, and a Blue Hills day. Sunday, June 14th is Flag Day. We decided on Saturday, June 6th, with Saturday, June 13th as a rain date. Kim suggested making sure we have jobs for people to do, other than bridges, in case we have more than 7-8 people who show up on that day. The trail project will start at 9, meeting in the parking lot at 8:30. Anyone who can't make the project but would like to come to the party can show up at the Visitor Center at 12:00. Pam suggested we have an RSVP sent out to FOW friends and family members asking if they would like to do either one, with a response expected by Sat. May 30th. Alma will send out this invitation.

It was noted that Lars has a list of how many bridges and trails are in the park.

10) Old Business

- Jim mentioned that the interpretive History Walk for the Hingham Land Conservation Trust may be held on Sunday May 17th, depending on the availability of the speaker. When he knows, he will let Vicky, Bill and Alma know the date so information could be dispensed to members.
- Carl noted that FOW would still like to visit the Southeaster Mass. Wildlife Trust Conservation Land, called Willow Farm, in Pembroke sometime in the fall to see their bridges and giant ant hills.

11) New Business

- Jane talked about an IRS seminar for 501c3 organizations that she would like to attend for \$45 to learn more about our tax status. FOW will cover her cost.
- Chuck said his sister works at Whole Foods in Hingham. Depending on the type of non-profit described on their website, they will provide all sorts of foods for free. This might be a venue for us to check out for our Landmine Classic. Bill will check on this, and notify Eric as well.

- Pam met someone on a trailwatch run who talked to her about an expired grant to keep a patrolman in Wompatuck. This woman is trying to contact her Selectwoman to see if more grant money could be forthcoming.
- Pam suggested building a “map box” by the Transfer Station, instead of having a kiosk. Steve said we could have a small one with a “you are here” sign the size of an open map, and said they could be easily made. He noted that Andy Mills likes to make them, and that it could also be a good Eagle Scout project. Carl noted that the metal stands on the trails near the Visitor Center don’t have anything on them, but Steve said the materials that have been on them have always deteriorated. He is in the process of pulling them out of the trail. Pam will send him suggestions on where she’d like to see these map boxes. Steve said we have 4 extra map boxes that could be placed.
- Jim has a map of a ship that sunk in Boston, which was written about in the latest newsletter, and showed it to everyone.
- Alma asked Jim if we could make extra copies of the newsletter to keep in the Visitor Center. We made about 100 copies the last time, and Steve said they went very quickly. It was suggested we make 500 copies and, since it’s historical data, we keep it in the Visitor Center for several months. The Membership Initiative Committee will look for pricing information.
- Bill will attend a DCR Stewardship Committee meeting on Friday May 8th, and will bring up the Rail Trail problem in a direct address to the Commissioner. It is “shovel ready,” and promised as part of the Old Colony Rail Restoration, but has never been completed. When the trains were voted for, this was supposed to be part of the package. Pam asked if there are any grassroots efforts being made and, if so, noted that we’d like to participate. Steve said that individuals contacting their Senators and Representatives would be important, telling them we can’t use the trail and would like to ride our bikes to the train station from various nearby towns. Pam wondered if we could tell Sandy’s newspaper contact about this, and it was suggested we write them about the situation and send along some pictures. Pam will work with Sandy on this.

12) Future Meeting dates

The next meeting is set for Monday, May 18th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Submitted by,

Alma Ramos-McDermott
Secretary