



April 25, 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), Judith and David S. (FOW), Vicki S. (Webmistress), Mark S. (FOW), Elli S. (FOW), Jane G. (Treasurer), Tyler E. (Landmine), Wayne S. (FOW), Lisa P. (PMC Kids Ride)

Number present: 16

Meeting convened at 7:00 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.

VP Report (Lars)

Lars reported on Park Serve Day activities and EMS Club Day attendance. Park Serve day was a “cold day” but several people showed up to work. Efforts on repairing unapproved trail modifications continued on Prospect Hill and more work needs to be done. We still do not know “who” has been modifying the trail, but they have created several dangerous trail modifications. Club Day at EMS was very successful, with a few new memberships and cash donations.

Secretary’s Report (Pam)

Pam asked the members present if there were any corrections to the minutes from the March FOW meeting. A motion was made and seconded to accept the March Secretary’s Report; the vote was unanimous to accept.

Treasurer’s Report (Jane)

Jane reported that the current balance in the FOW account is \$16,582.18. Jane distributed a list of expenses for the month. A motion was made and seconded to accept the March Treasurer’s Report; the vote was unanimous to accept.

Membership (Sandy)

Sandy reported there are currently 105 members listed; we had 2 new families and 2 new members. Sandy reported that he will start to remove names from the membership list for non-renewal. A motion was made and seconded to accept the March Membership Report; the vote was unanimous to accept.

Webpage Report (Vicki)

Vicki reported that she has added a section on “Running in Wompatuck” and has included material from Alma. John K. said he will submit information for a section on dog sledding; Sandy said he will submit information on Pine Run. Vicki will be maintaining the website from China as her family will be moving to China around the middle of June and will be living there for 2 – 3 years. Wow! FOW is global!

PMC Kids Ride (Lisa Patterson)

Lisa is very happy that the PMC Kids Ride will be held in Wompatuck again this year on June 12th, from 9 AM – 12 Noon, Rain or Shine. You can visit their site at: <http://kids.pmc.org/hingham/> or email the group at pmchingham@comcast.net.

Lisa said this is a very safe venue and Hingham Police and Fire Departments are pleased with the careful planning and well organized volunteers working to make this a successful event. There will be police officers and EMTs on bikes monitoring the courses during the ride. There are two rides: Trail Blazer (1-2 miles for ages 8 - 12) and Mountaineers (6 miles for ages 12 - 15). Last year 455 riders registered; due to inclement weather there were about 250 riders. Questions were raised about parking; Steve G. will work with Stu P. to plan for parking prior to the race.

Lisa said ride volunteers need to arrive by 7:45AM on ride day; volunteers need to register on the website prior to ride day. Bill B. said he will post course arrows one week prior to the ride. There will be a bicycle safety check before the ride at 8 AM; Opening Ceremonies will be at 8:45 AM.

Discussion continued and addressed start and finish points for tikes, beginners and intermediate riders. Bill will review all courses with Lisa to confirm. Carl suggested a “Big Wheel” ride would be a fun activity; all agreed this would be entertaining and noted that there is a 45 pound weight limit for Big Wheel riders.

Lisa suggested that a letter be submitted to the Hingham Journal to highlight the successful coordination of the PMC Kids Ride team, FOW and NEMBA. Suggestion was also made to include FOW brochures in rider “goody bags” to be distributed on the day of the ride. Lisa will also bring posters to the park to be displayed in the Visitor Center.

EMS Weekend (Lars and Sandy)

Sandy added to Lars’ prior comments about the success of EMS Club Days. FOW had a table at the entrance to the store and attracted a lot of attention. FOW took in \$105 in cash donations. Thanks to Sandy C., Lars, Carl C. and Steve C. for “manning” the table! Lars showed us the terrific poster that was on display highlighting photographs of the park and folks enjoying a variety of activities.

Recent Trail Care Activities (Carl)

Carl reported that we need to focus on Pine Run for safety repairs that have been created by an unidentified group (or individual). Carl also said he plans to paint the floor of the shed. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of Fire Control training for Trailwatch and FOW members. Steve G. indicated that the State has a training program; we would need 2 pump cans to be added to our tool inventory. Discussion continued about tools to be added to the FOW inventory, including a “rogue hoe” (about \$75), tire pump for wheel barrows; “Fix-A-Flat” kits; clinometer to determine trail pitch.

Recent Trail Care Activities - Continued (Carl)

Mark and Vicki said they will donate their BOB trailer to FOW while they are in China; Carl will work on racks for the trailer to transport gear.

Carl presented a list of tools he recommends be purchased for the FOW; discussion noted that \$500 had been previously approved for tool purchase. A motion was made and seconded to approve the purchase of the recommended tools; the vote was unanimous to accept.

Steve G. talked about new national policy for handicap access to trails and said that Wompy is well suited for motor-powered access. More information will be forthcoming.

Trail Watch Wompatuck (Eric)

We will look forward to hearing from Eric at an upcoming meeting!

Conservation Commission Presentations Wrap Up (Steve G.)

Steve G. made presentations to the Conservation Committees in Hingham, Norwell, Scituate and Cohasset; all four towns approved permitting to continue trail and park maintenance. Hingham requested they be notified of any significant projects; Norwell specified 6 spots as approved for maintenance with additional trail needs to be presented to the Town of Norwell as they arise; Scituate approved all work including the use of crushed stone to be transported by muck truck; Cohasset approved work and requested additional notification for bigger jobs. The permits in all towns are good for 3 years.

Steve G. also wants to thank Pilgrim Paving for filling in all the pot holes from the entrance to the rock ledge. Bill B. said he would send a thank you letter to the company.

Steve also mentioned that the Eagle Scout bridge project was completed, however, FOW will need to extend the bridge prior to Landmine 2011.

Adopt-A-Trail (Tyler)

Tyler said we need to generate some momentum for support of the Adopt-A-Trail project, and Bill commented that it is important to have this program established as soon as possible, especially in light of anticipated volunteer policy changes. Tyler reminded us that this is simple trail maintenance and includes notifying Steve G. (Park Supervisor) of any major trail damage.

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. We need to produce the map, secure sponsors and find a printer. Lars will report at the next meeting on progress made.

Doane Street and Dog Issues (Steve G. and John K.)

John showed us signs that he had made and will donate to the Park to remind dog owners to act responsibly and clean up after their dogs and to take the dog waste out of the park. These signs are not only CLEAR but they are BEAUTIFUL as well, sure to attract attention of dog owners. John donated 5 signs and the signs will be placed at significant points in the park, including Doane Street and the main entrance. Steve G. requested that one sign also be placed in Ames Nowell Park.

Doane Street and Dog Issues - Continued (Steve G. and John K.)

The signs will have to be mounted on plywood; they are weather-proof. John said that he would hope to see a 10-15% reduction in dog waste, especially on Doane Street. The signs were sponsored by “dog” organizations and this should also bring a strong message to dog owners to be responsible. John also mentioned that 10 Boston Snow Dog volunteers recently participated in the Park Serve activities. FOW members expressed their appreciation for the signs and for the efforts BSD is making in Wompy.

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

Due to an oversight, the Landmine ad was not included in the most recent edition of *Single Tracks*. Phil Keyes offered to run a half page ad in the two upcoming issues.

Tyler reported that we have the USA Cycling permit; cycling insurance; DCR permit. He is still working on the BikeReg page and working to coordinate food planning and prize planning. Lars is working on the course map. There is a re-routing issue near East Gate; Steve G. will work with Tyler to establish the course change. Mark will send Jill a reminder that we would like to get our race numbers at the next Root66 event.

Old Business*Dogs on Doane Street*

Steve G. has not had any response from the Town of Cohasset regarding the Dog Officer patrolling that entrance. Even though the State owns the Park, the Conservation Commissions for the towns are mandated by the State to address wetland issues, and the dog waste on Doane Street would fall to the Towns or the Environmental Police. We will continue to pursue assistance from the Town.

New Business*REI Grant*

Lars reported that REI has offered up another grant opportunity for programs that include volunteers devoted to improving land areas. Possibilities for work would include re-doing boardwalks near Prospect Hill. The deadline is in several weeks and we need a volunteer to work on writing this grant.

Wompatuck Museum

Sandy C. and Steve G. reported that DCR may be turning over the Supply Building to the Park. This is the “Transfer Station”. This might be an ideal opportunity to create a Wompatuck Museum. There is also plenty of space to store Park equipment. Details will be forthcoming..

Important Dates

FOW Monthly Meeting: May 16th – Visitor Center – 7 PM
National Trail Day: June 4th

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Pam Johnson, FOW Secretary