

**FOW**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**

June 15, 2009

Present: Bill B. (Pres.), Lars A. (Vice-Pres.), Alma M. (Secretary), Jane G. (Treasurer), Sandy C. (Membership), Jim R. (Historian), Vicki S. (webmistress), Eric O., Carl C., Pam J., Elliot Place (Men's Divisions Inc.), Malcolm N.

Present: 12

**1) Opening Remarks**

A round of introductions took place. Bill expressed his pleasure at group members taking individual responsibility, recruiting others to help, and not letting all the work fall onto the shoulders of the presidency.

**2) Vice-President Report (Lars)**

Lars noted that it was a very busy month with a lot of activities taking place that would be discussed later in the meeting.

**3) Secretary's Report (Alma)**

Alma thanked Vicki for taking the minutes for her when she was ill last month.

**4) Treasurer's Report (Jane)**

Jane noted that we have \$4506.37 in our account. She went to an IRS Seminar last Wednesday, and reported that it was very informative. The IRS has two goals: they want to make sure we follow our charter (bylaws), and that we are being responsible with our donation monies. Overall, we are fine because we're doing what's right but, since we're growing, we need to make sure we keep good records and continue to follow our bylaws. The larger we get, the more we'll need to set ourselves up to keep going what we're doing.

We're on the low end (under \$25,000) and have to fill out an online "postcard." Those 401c3's making over \$250,000 have a much larger form to complete. These forms are all brand new since the IRS redid all their forms last year. In addition, our bank is required to send a statement of our activities to the IRS on a quarterly basis so they know what monies we're taking in every quarter. The "postcard" was due on May 15<sup>th</sup>, so she needs to get working on completing it as soon as possible.

We discussed who has the bylaws (Alma) and how we can keep them in a safe, accessible place. Bill suggested getting a safe deposit box at Citizens, our bank, to keep them safe. Bill also noted that, once a year, the secretary of an organization pays a yearly fee to remain an incorporated body under Massachusetts law. We need to figure out how Alma can do this. If we don't file our federal forms within 3 years, we will lose our status.

Pam noted that a safe deposit box could also be used to store several checks, in case Jane is not around and monies are needed. Jane will check for prices of safe deposit boxes. We can also store extra keys to various important Wompatuck doors. Malcolm also made a suggestion that we could buy a fireproof file cabinet for about \$99.

Sandy C. wondered if we could make a small summary of what needs to be done within the 3 year period. In the course of the year, we can figure out what to do for this summary. In addition, Jane reported that no more than 1/3 of our monies can come from only one source.

#### **5) Membership Report (Sandy C.)**

Sandy reported that we just received \$200 from Elliot's group. He e-mailed requests for renewals to everyone with an e-mail address. There were issues with those wanting to renew online, and Vicki will work on that problem with Google. Sandy is starting to receive some renewals and, later this month, will do some snail mail renewals. Renewals are \$15 individual, family \$25, Benefactor \$100, and Corporate \$200.

#### **6) Webpage Report (Vicki)**

Vicki noted that Google checkout is down, but the website has been revamped. The website address is [friendsofwompatuck.org](http://friendsofwompatuck.org). She will send out a reminder via e-mail when the site is working again. Sandy asked how he could get a readout of who has paid. Vicki will send him the information on this.

#### **7) Trail Maintenance and Reconstruction Session Reports**

- Bill Boles noted that last Saturday, we had a good Trail Maintenance Session. We had a bunch of people here, more than were needed to do the project. We had thought of doing a "Build a Bridge" party for FOW members. That didn't work out, so we had a bridge building and a trail day. He and Steve G. put in a bridge very quickly with 11 people. It was close to pavement, so the material was easy to get in and to take out the old bridge. Lars took a lot of photos that he sent to the group. Bill will write a small report to go with the pictures and give them to Jim R. for the newsletter. He wants to use the photos as a "how to" to direct people towards what we do. Last weekend, he led a Skills Ride, and had them go over the bridge. He noted that we have 37 bridges in Wompatuck, which vary in length.
- Eric O. reported on the South Field expansion. Lars created a document with his GPS showing the old versus the new areas of South Field. The sumac and brambles along the edges near S29 are starting to grow back, and there are areas that need to be whacked with a weed whacker. The original intent of this clearing was to create more parking for the race. Eventually, the goal will be to put out some benches, open the gate, and have a South Field Day to allow families to enjoy it. He also planted clove on the backside of the berm.
- Eric also reported on the new trail on Prospect Hill. There are sections of the trails that are fall line (go straight down), which causes erosion. The old switchback by S2 has been getting eroded, so a new trail was created to make it more fun and to close the old trail. The trail is a switchback, but features about 10 berms and about 2 jumps. There are some bench cuts for the trails that are sloped, which eases the

slope. The berms are soft now, so those who are riding it need to be in the middle (they're about a foot or two in length, but enough to carry speed around the corner.) The only thing left to do is to rake the top part. He posted a blue trail marker at the top of the trail and called it "Pine Run" since it winds through stands of old pine trees. He noted that when it dries out and packs up, it'll be a great trail.

## 8) New Business

- Elliot reported that Men's Divisions International is an all volunteer group with divisions all over North America. The purpose is to give men what they need to be for their family and community. They get together on a regular basis in circles around a fire which originates from pre-historic times when men have been got together in circles to support each other, to prepare for the "hunt" and "defend the village." They have a partnership organization called "A Family of Women" who also gets together in the same way. What they find tricky is finding a place to meet together. The Pine Amphitheater and Grove near South Field is a great place for them to meet.
  - The group keeps a code of honor. They meet at South Field once a month on Mondays from 7:30-10:30. They "check in" with each other, and conduct various activities. It's a mixture of fun and "dropping of masks." They're associated with various charitable organizations like "Cradles to Crayons." They helped them build their warehouses.
  - They create a "safe circle" for the men. Men verbally "let loose" if they need to, they cry, and release the emotions that are usually kept inside. He invited all men to attend, and can be contacted at Elliott\_place@yahoo.com.
- Elliot passed out information for an upcoming blood drive on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup>. His group uses South Field and other parts of the park.
- Malcolm talked about the problem of seeing too many kids in the park riding their bikes without helmets. In his neighborhood, he's been encouraging them to wear helmets by giving out prizes to those who are wearing helmets, and those without helmets run home to get their helmets so they can get a prize. He wondered if we could roll this into Trailwatch and call it a "Helmet Enforcement Division" to give out to kids who are wearing their helmets. For those who aren't wearing one, he wondered if we could get discount coupons from bike shops to give out for them to get helmets. This would encourage parents to get helmets for them, and the kids would be encouraged to wear them for the prize. He said we could have a "Safety Day" or a "Helmet Day." We can help enforce the Massachusetts "under 16 must have a helmet" law with this action.
  - Eric suggested we work with the Hingham Police Department on this, and Malcolm noted that he already plans to do so. Eric also suggested we involve the Hingham Journal.
  - Alma suggested having some of these toys kept in the Visitor Center so any member of FOW could grab a handful to give out to kids with helmets on a regular bike ride or during a run. "Lids for Kids" is a name he likes that would get the point across to the children and their parents. He will run with this idea.

- Bill talked about a Whole Foods event on June 20<sup>th</sup> from 12-3 pm. The woman in charge of the event (Julie) is Chuck's sister, a new member. Whole Foods is offering an event on that day, and Pam will follow up with her on this.
- Sandy ran into the Hingham Fire Chief, and mentioned that the Chief had wondered about FOW's connection with the Fire Dept. Eric noted that he had sent them a letter asking for men to provide medical help at our Landmine race. We will have New England Mountain Biking Patrol here, but need more help. If they sent help and purchased an ATV, then we would donate a trailer or, if not, we would donate \$1000 to them for this. Sandy said the Chief said he doesn't need a trailer, and they don't have an ATV. Eric will follow up with his original contact to clarify the situation.
- Jim said maybe we could get together with Bare Cove members in the fall, since a lot of people are not around during the summer. He will work on it.
- Pam doesn't have the FOW banner with her, but mentioned that several members joined her with Eric at the Trailwatch launch in May. The weather was bad, so not a lot of people came to the park on that day. There is a Habitat ride here this weekend, and she wondered if anyone would be around to sit with the banner and a table. If anyone is available, please e-mail her at [pjohnson@ssneuro.com](mailto:pjohnson@ssneuro.com). She also mentioned that the FOW brochures are all over the park and at the campgrounds, and we're getting a lot of exposure.
- Sandy said if anyone is trying to find a member, to call him as he has all the addresses and phone numbers.
- Pam sent thank you notes to all the gentlemen who led the History Walk.
- Carl said we could have a "Children's Safety Day" to check bikes. Bill said we could do a "Take a Kid Biking Day" on mountain or road bikes and combine it with a "Kids Safety Day." Malcolm said his friend on the Police Bike Patrols could also join us. We will make October a goal to do this, and will bring it up at another meeting.

## 9) Old Business

- Lars noted that the files for the new brochure should be kept in a safe place. He gave a copy of the disk files to Jane to keep.
- Eric noted that we need volunteers for Registration, Feed Zones (there will be four this year, necessitating about 40 volunteers), Parking and Course Monitors for the Landmine on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Since we have a marathon, the race will last from about 9:00 to 4:00 pm. Volunteers can help for the whole time period, or can split time periods. He is also looking for sponsors, but is having difficulties. All the money we make for this event goes back into the park. This event is what gives us the money to give back to Wompatuck. If interested, please contact him at [atechguy@comcast.net](mailto:atechguy@comcast.net).

## Future Meeting dates

The next meeting is set for Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Submitted by,  
Alma Ramos-McDermott, Secretary