

## **Friends of Wompatuck Minutes**

**July 20, 2009**

Brought to order at 7:03

Attendance: Bill B. (President), Eric O. (Landmine Race Manager), Steve G. (Park Supervisor), Frank B., Bennett B., Jane G. (Treasurer), Dan H., Peter M., Jan D., Carl C. (TWW), Sandy C. (TWW), Donna H. (TWW), Sandy F., Chuck H., Kim M., Jerry (TWW), Ron (Bare Cove), Pam J. (TWW)

Present: 18

### **1) Opening Remarks**

A round of introductions took place. Bill B. also described the mission of Trail Watch Wompatuck to visitors attending FOW for the first time. Alma (Secretary Extraordinaire) is unable to attend so Pam is taking notes.

### **2) Vice President's Report**

Lars is out-of-town and we look forward to hearing from him at the next FOW meeting in August.

### **3) Secretary's Report**

Alma is unable to attend tonight's meeting; we will vote on acceptance of the minutes at the next meeting.

### **4) Treasurer's Report (Jane G.)**

Jane reported that we have \$5,069 in the FOW checking account. Jane obtained fees to have a Safe Deposit Box for FOW at Citizens Bank in Hingham, where the FOW Checking account is maintained. There are 3 sizes of safe deposit boxes: 3x5x18 for \$50/year; 3x10x18 for \$80/year; and 5x10x18 for \$100 per year. Two keys are provided with the Safe Deposit Box. The largest of the three boxes would allow documents to be stored flat without having to fold them.

Discussion included placing one Post Office Box key in the Safe Deposit Box along with all official paper documents for FOW, including the By Laws. Jane will keep one key as Treasurer and Bill B. will keep the second key as President. Jane will develop an inventory list of items contained in the Safe Deposit Box to allow for quick location of needed documents.

A motion was made and seconded to rent the 5x10x18 Safe Deposit Box at Citizens Bank in Hingham.

Jane distributed the Treasurer's Report for review. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report.

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

Sandy sent membership renewal reminders 5 days ago and has had few responses. 23 members have renewed; 41 members are not yet due for renewal. Sandy will send another mailing in 30 days. Bill B. recommended that the list should be reviewed by FOW members 45 days after the notices are sent to help encourage renewals of friends known to members. Sandy said that there have been membership renewals processed through the FOW website Google checkout and the process has been smooth. Pam said we have also processed tee shirt orders received on the FOW website and that process has also been very easy.

## **6) Website**

Vicki S. is not able to attend the meeting tonight. We will look forward to an update at the next meeting!

## **7) Melanoma Education Foundation (MEF) Run and Walk September 27<sup>th</sup> – Jan D.**

The Melanoma Education Foundation (MEF) provides education on early awareness of melanoma to over 800 high schools in MA. Jan told the group that MEF held their 1<sup>st</sup> Road Race last year in Wompatuck State Park and it was a terrific event and fundraiser. The 2<sup>nd</sup> MEF Road Race will be held on September 27, 2009 at Wompatuck State Park. Registration begins at 9 AM and the Race and Walk will begin at 11 AM. The race/walk course is on pavement only and is a USATF Sanctioned 5-Mile course. Last year they had 232 registered runners and walkers and about 300 people in attendance. This year they are hoping for 500 runners/walkers. The MEF is also encouraging high school “team” competitions. Runners and walkers can register online at: [web.mac.com/danowski](http://web.mac.com/danowski). Bill suggested the race be posted on the FOW Website. Parking will be in the main lot and areas near the Visitor Center, which is near the start of the course. Steve G. said he will provide assistance with management of the parking. FOW was invited to set up a table to promote FOW. Jan said that the course distance is certified and that the race is USATF sanctioned, which means MEF follows the USATF rules governing races and will also have medical assistance available.

## **8) Landmine 2009 (Eric O.)**

Bill and Eric asked for comments on Landmine 2008. Jane said her experience was mostly positive except for getting stuck in the mud in South Field! Frank said more water was needed on the course, and Steve G. said he was glad to have finished the race! Steve G. said that there is now a “stone” road into the field and that the field has been “reclaimed”. This should alleviate the mud issues. Eric O. has done a tremendous amount of work to clear and clean up the field. Bill B. said that the field was a “stump graveyard”. Steve G. said that work needs to continue to monitor the field for “sink holes”. Timber has also been dumped in the field; decomposition time can be up to 20 years for wood.

Eric O. talked about Landmine 2009, which will be held on September 13<sup>th</sup> (Sunday). This year the race is part of a national race series sponsored by GT Bikes. There are 7 – 8 races in various parts of the United States and the winner gets a “golden bike” and 2 airline tickets to the next race. Eric anticipates that there will be 400-500 registered racers at Landmine 2009. The race typically draws 300 racers. Registration for the race can be completed online at: [bikereg.com](http://bikereg.com).

Ongoing Landmine projects prior to the race include: South Field maintenance; Cutting New Trails; and Cutting Back Existing trails. We need volunteers to help with course set up and marking; this will take place about one week before the event and also the day before the race on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. We also need volunteers to help at registration on race day from 7 AM until about 10:30 AM. The first wave of racers will start at 9:30 AM. Registration volunteers can stay and move on to course marshalling and feed zone help after registration (there

will be four feed zones). All volunteers are welcome to help throughout the day with course marshalling and feed zone assistance.

There will be bleachers set up, Nona's Ice Cream and Whole Foods will be donating food; Hingham Cub Scouts will be working at the food stations throughout the entire running of the race. Hingham Fire Department will have a team on the course, including trained paramedics; NEMBA will also have a team on the course. There will be a Beginner Course (11 miles), a single loop (25 miles) and a marathon course (50 miles – twice around the course). Eric approached sponsors such as Vitamin Water and some of the food bar companies, but they said the race date was too late in the season for sponsorship/donations (even though they were approached in the Spring). South Shore Conservatory will have a soloist perform the National Anthem; Eric is hoping to have a Color Guard to continue the "military" theme of the race.

Eric will be working on details for moving the third feed zone, course changes, new trails and pre-race trail cut-backs. The course will be marked with chalk spray paint. Last year the course marking went up two weeks prior to the race and this presented some problems due to weather. Bill B. also said early course marking can be a problem due to (in Pam's words) "muggles" (people who move the markers thinking it is funny). This year the remote areas of the course will be marked first. Trail markers and caution tape will be placed on the course. Bill B. said we will need "fresh bodies" to run the course to be sure the race course is clearly delineated and easy to follow. We will also need volunteers to pull down the caution tape and markers after the race.

Eric O. will hang a banner at the entrance to Wompatuck State Park to advertise the race. Sandy C. said he would contact the Hingham Journal and the Patriot Ledger to get coverage prior to the race.

Eric O. said we need "prize" ideas for winners of the divisions in the race, and he said it would be nice if the prizes were representative of the history of Wompatuck. Bill B. suggested going to the Army Surplus store to purchase WWII helmets. Steve G. suggested we use old railroad spikes and paint them gold, silver and bronze. Carl C. suggested we design something that could be laser cut on acrylic. We need 40-50 prizes.

Bill B. said there will be a Landmine Race Meeting scheduled prior to the race to work on the remaining details. The regular FOW meeting will be held on the third Monday in August, which is August 17<sup>th</sup>.

Steve G. said that the stage is being built and that about 1/3 of the post holes have been dug. The stage will be 20x30 when completed and the tent will fit over the stage. Steve is considering either pressure treated decking or trex (recycled mixture) for the stage floor. Steve asked if FOW would contribute to the cost of the decking if there were not enough funds in the DCR budget. A motion was made and seconded to support the need for additional funding if needed.

Eric O. asked if Steve G. had received the DCR permit. Eric O. will confirm that the permit is all set.

## **9) Helmet 4 Kids (Malcolm)**

Malcolm was unable to attend and we look forward to his report on this initiative.

## **10) New Business**

Bennett joined us tonight to volunteer community service hours. He will contact Eric O., Bill B., and Steve G. to talk about trail care and maintenance projects.

Bill B. called for any additional new business (later in the meeting). No other new business was brought forward.

### **11) Old Business**

Bill B. called for any Old Business. Jane G., Treasurer, said that there are financial reporting requirements to maintain the FOW nonprofit status with the Attorney General in Massachusetts. Jane will work on the reports and will contact Bill B. for assistance. Peter M. also suggested that Jane seek assistance from the state for form completion.

Ron, a representative from Bare Cove Park, said that the Bare Cove Park staff was “thrilled” with the sign over the Gate House that was donated by FOW. They found a gate dated 1918 at Bare Cove and that was very exciting. Ron announced that there will be a fundraiser for Bare Cove Park – A Wine/Food Tasting Event at the Country Club on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. There is also a road race fundraiser scheduled for the last Friday in August, which will be August 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **12) Next FOW Meeting**

August 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM, Visitor Center.

The next Trail Care Event will also be announced on the website. President Bill B. thanked everyone for attending and again welcomed all “new” attendees!

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.**

**Minutes submitted by Pam Johnson, Secretary Of The Day**