

## **Friends of Wompatuck Meeting Minutes**

August 17, 2009

**In Attendance:** Bill B. (President), Jane G. (Treasurer), Lars A. (Vice President), Vicki S. (Webmistress), Mark S., Eric O., Steve G. (Park Supervisor), Sandy C. (Membership), Carl C., Malcolm N., Kevin C.

Eleven members were present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:07p.m. by Bill B. He welcomed the group and since all present knew one another, introductions were skipped.

Vicki S. took minutes because Alma M. could not make it.

Lars said he had nothing to report as Vice President.

The minutes from the last meeting were approved with a motion by Carl C., which was seconded by Eric O.

Treasurer Jane G. reported that we had \$4,888.62 in our checking account. She also opened a safe deposit box for our group, but Bill B. would have to be present with her to be granted access the first time. Jane G. and Bill B. decided to work out a date to do that amongst themselves. Carl C. made a motion, seconded by Eric O., to accept the Treasurers report.

Membership director Sandy C. reported that we had 73 entries in our membership spreadsheet (family memberships only get one entry). Seventeen old members still have yet to renew but we have 55 new or recently renewed members, with approximately 6 new memberships since the last meeting. He reported that about half are mailed in membership applications and half are completed online.

Vicki S. asked if Sandy C. had heard back from the member who had requested a refund of his money (renewed at the Benefactor level) through his credit card company. Sandy C. said he called the member twice but had not heard back. No one is certain whether the member really meant to contest his online donation or if he did not remember what the charge was for. Bill B. suggested initiating e-mail contact with the member by asking him which size t-shirt he would like since he joined at the Benefactor level. Sandy C. said he would follow-up with that, and if the disputed donation was intentional, we would authorize Google Checkout to refund his money.

Vicki S. had nothing new report on the website. Eric O. said he was working with Lars A. to GPS the Landmine race course, which we should post on the website once complete. When Lars A. is done GPSing the course he will send the map to Vicki S.

### Kids and Helmets

Malcolm N. reported that he is continuing with his Kids and Helmets program. He said he is working closely with the Hingham Police bike patrol unit to come up with some programming

ideas. Malcolm said he sent out an e-mail on WompyFriends but got relatively little feedback from the group other than to possibly do something in conjunction with Landmine. Mark S. suggested Malcolm incorporate it into the pre-existing kids race. Malcolm thought of maybe trying to do a helmet drive at Landmine too so he would have helmets to distribute to kids. Bill B. suggested maybe also doing something with the “Take A Kid Mountain Biking Day” we sponsor on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was suggested that maybe we expand this day beyond just mountain biking to also have a road ride since Wompy has so much good pavement – and then parents could come with kids trailers. Malcolm decided he would use Landmine as a kickoff event and work from there.

### Landmine Classic

Eric O. ran through an itinerary for Landmine, which includes the singing of the National Anthem and the National Guard coming to fire off guns for the start of the race.

It was suggested that we make the kids race course more interesting this year so they are not just riding in a circle on grass. After some ideas were tossed around it was decided that we would wait to design the kids course until after parking is defined.

Steve G. reported that his crew will begin cutting the grass in South Field the next morning and that the deck is coming along very nicely, despite having to extract large boulders when digging the post holes! Steve G. said the final decking material would cost about \$1000 but the park could pay for \$500 of it and asked if FOW would contribute the remaining \$500, which was approved.

Steve G. mentioned that his band Blame the Dog will not be able to play at Landmine because of scheduling conflicts with some of the band members. It was decided that if another band wasn't located, it was sufficient to just have music playing over the speaker system.

Eric O. said the race will be staging from near the berm area this year instead of blocking cars on the road. The races will still have to cross the road to get on course but cars can be let through in between groups.

Eric O. asked Steve G. if the park crew could fill a hole near the stage. Steve G. said that would be done shortly.

Eric O. reported that the cub scouts will be doing the food for the event and will just use the registration tent after registration closes so we don't have to set up another one.

Also, there will be a first aid tent and we will also have EMTs on bicycles.

Eric O. just finished laminating the mile markers for the course and will start hanging them in the next few weeks. They will mark each mile of the course.

Routing over Prospect Hill was discussed and Steve G. reported that his crew did a fantastic job of closing the old switchback. Bill B. mentioned that some of the berms on the new trail down were starting to puddle at the base and would need to be fixed after Landmine. Jane G. said she

though the new trail was fantastic – even for walking. She has been doing the weekly Wompy walks with the summer interpreter and has been covering a lot of miles in the park on foot. Steve G. mentioned that there would even be an accessible walk for the disabled on Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>.

Eric O. said the last major work that needs to be done before Landmine is simply trail cutbacks. Lars A. and Tyler E. went out recently and recorded some of the especially bad spots, though the whole course needs to be done. It was decided that the next **Trail Care Day on Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>** would focus on cutbacks. Because of this, we will need mostly mobile crews (i.e. on bikes). Bill B. asked Eric O. to have maps of the course premade for Sunday's Trail Care event so everyone will know which trails they need to focus on.

Eric O. reported that the dummy bullets we ordered in lieu of trophies should be arriving soon and that Jane G. had donated 100 marble bases on which to mount them using epoxy. Jane G. and Eric O. are working on a sticker label to also add to either the base or the bullet. Mark S. suggested we also add the year or actual date to the sticker because otherwise it is hard to remember what year you even got it. There was a lot of discussion about how and where to place the stickers, with it ultimately being decided to just wait to see the actual bullet before deciding anything. There was also some concern that the trophies will not have a place written on them. After many ideas of how to resolve this, it was decided that since Root 66 will be giving out medals in addition to the bullet-trophy, that was sufficient enough to demarcate place.

It was decided that Kevin C. would be in charge of designing and ordering about 100 Landmine specific t-shirts since many racers asked for them last year. We will also have out FOW t-shirts for sale.

Eric O. said we will have four feed zones this year: three will be fully stocked and will be manned by the Boy/Cub Scouts until 3:30PM and one will be unmanned where marathon racers can place their own drop bags. Also, because some racers complained last year that they were going too fast on a pavement section when approaching the one feed zone, Eric O. has the racers going over the bunkers and through a new little trail in the woods so they will be now approaching the feed zone at a crawl.

Lars A. has mapped a route around several of the old buildings to make the race course more interesting. Mark S. suggested we try to get some pictures of the historic buildings and a description of their historical significance on the website to make racers more excited. While a good idea, it was decided it will likely not happen before this year's event.

Sandy C. asked if there were any ads for the race yet. Eric O. said we have one in the Hingham Journal but that is it. Sandy C. suggested we do a write up of the race for the Journal or invite reporters to come to the event. Malcolm N. said he would distribute more flyers/ads if given a copy.

Eric O. asked if anyone had a camouflage canopy to drape on the registration tent. No one knew of any so it was suggested we ask the National Guard if they have anything they could bring or look into purchasing some camouflage tarps.

It was suggested that Jim Rose (Historian) be at Landmine with his trunk full of history.

Eric O. asked if anyone had a tripod cork board to hand a map of the course. No one did so it was decided that we would tape a map of the race course to the registration table.

Kevin C. said he had someone mention to him that we should either route the course differently near the power lines or attend to the barbed wire in the area. It was decided there was no good way to move the course around there. Steve G. said he would send a crew out there to move the barbed wire further from the trail.

There was no additional Old or New Business.

The next Friends of Wompatuck meeting is scheduled for Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>.

There will be one last Landmine planning meeting, which is scheduled for Thurs., Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> at Bike Barn in Whitman. FOW will provide food and drinks for that meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM.