

F O W
MINUTES OF MEETING

September 15, 2008

Present: Bill B.(President), Alma M. (Secretary), Sandy C. (Membership), Jim R. (Historian), Steve C. (Vice-President), Eric O. (Treasurer), Carl C., Jane G., Kristie, Lars A., Pam, Steve, Vicki S., Mark S., Steve G. (Park Supervisor), Kevin

Present: 16

1) Opening Remarks

Introductions

2) Vice President Report

Steve C. said we had a nice weekend last week with a lot of volunteers. The registration went very smoothly and he thanked the volunteers. Yesterday, the horse bridge was built; about 5 people helped. He's been working on a trail grant application with a recreational trails program, federally funded. Each state gets a certain amount of money for trails and he's applying through NEMBA for equipment and for the trails.

Saturday, October 4th will be "Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day." It's been done in the Blue Hills, and will be held at Wompatuck this year. We will discuss how the ride will go, entertainment, types of trails, etc.

3) Secretary's Report

Alma was absent for the August meeting, but noted that Eric did a great job with the minutes which were accepted by the members.

4) Treasurer's Report

Eric reported that we have about \$11,000 in the bank. He would like to sit down with some members to target projects in the park that we could help to fund. Some ideas for how the money could be spent include trails, as well as helping to improve the campground, the Visitor Center, refitting the Guardhouse, tools could be purchased, etc. Jane suggested we set goals for the group (such as a 1, 3 and 5 year plan), with ideas for what we'd like to do. Eric said since we're now non-profit, we could apply for grants that could help fund many projects.

A motion was made to have a meeting to set goals for the group, and it was passed. He would like members to come up with ideas for the group. It was suggested we spend most of our November meeting to set goals.

5) Bunker Project

There are some drainage issues. Bill read an e-mail from Andy seeking funding and help from FOW to work on this during our trail work day on Oct. 12th and to fund it for approximately \$218. A discussion was held regarding whether or not we'd get enough

people, but Bill assured everyone we get enough people on that day where some could work on trail issues and some could work on this project. A motion was made and passed to accept Andy's recommendation for a little over \$300, including an extra \$100 or so for more rocks for drainage.

There will be a Bunker Open House on November 8th. The group will work to plan the day.

6) NEMBA/FOW Grant Application

Steve C. discussed his application for equipment, machinery (a mucktruck, which is a powered wheelbarrow to carry heavy equipment), and materials to restore bridges. He is asking for funding for 2 projects for the rail beds and for bridges. The application needs to be in this week. He doesn't have an itemized list of materials to repair the bridges, so he will decide on the 3 most important ones that need repair and then figure out the necessary materials to complete the application.

Eric discussed some of the different kinds of bridges we could build as well as different types of sanding and building materials that would give better traction for bicyclists, as there was a problem during the Landmine with bicyclists falling on slippery bridges. There is a bridge that could be built with a 1 inch gap between boards, however, Alma noted that would be problematic for runners who might get the lip of their sneakers caught and would cause a bad fall (as happened to her with a similar gap during a run).

Bill noted that we will need to discuss a solution that will allow bridges to be built that will not cause falls for runners or slipperiness for bicyclists. A member asked why not use synthetic wood, but it was noted the cost is at least 5x the cost of regular wood. We will continue to discuss not building bouncy bridges but ladder-type bridges at the next meeting.

7) October 12th - Trail Care Session

We will work on the Bunker Project and the equestrian bridge. Eric would also like to have a park cleanup day, to clean up trash in the parking lots and trails if we have enough people. We will also ask people who are working on the trails or building bridges to travel with plastic bags to pick up trash as they walk. REI should be with us that day.

Eric suggested we review how to trim trails so that the helpers cut correctly to avoid problems with "ankle grabbers" and "face slappers." Pam suggested we tell people to bring water bottles, a snack, more protective gear and necessary tools. Steve said we need to put out a folding table to put refreshments and drinks. Bill said we'll supply trash bags and suggest sturdy shoes, as well as Pam's suggestions. He also suggested having a raffle during the pizza time to give away something. Pam suggested giving away a Wompatuck t-shirt.

8) First Annual Melanoma Education Foundation Race and Walk

Alma reported that she found out about this race yesterday (Sunday) due to a posting on her running club's forum. It will be held next Sunday the 21st at Wompatuck to benefit Melanoma. There will be a 5 mile race and a 3 mile walk. Registration begins at 9 am, and the race begins at 11. Race link: <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzeucrv6/>

9) Landmine Classic/NEMBAFest Report

Eric thanked all the volunteers for their work, and noted that racers complimented him on the smoothness of Registration. He is ambivalent about marking the course early because people were stealing some of his markers, however, it gave a good buzz for the race and pulled a lot of local people to come out and try the course. Mark said we had about 50% more people than another Route 66 race. We ended up with 293 racers, which was about 15 more than last year. The 278 on the Route 66 site did not count DNF as well as registered runners who did not pick up their race packet. We netted about \$5000, which was less than last year, which gives us about \$11,000 in our account.

Eric and Kevin plan to make the marathon more of a premier event next year. Our event is well placed at the end of the season, as well as the anchor for the Route 66 series. In order to grow, we need to figure out ways to keep people on the course for the whole day. One way might be to pay people to stay, especially at feed zones to make sure they're set up with water and food. It was suggested we put drop bags at the zones. We may have to double the registration fee to pay for some of these increased expenses and benefits for the riders. We had 4 NE mountain bike patrol bike the course and supply us with medical help, and they enjoyed their day. He said we need to have a medical tent, as he had to search for the roving bicyclists when there was an injury.

Bill said we had about 148 people pay for NEMBAfest, but there were a lot more people there than had paid. It will not be at Wompatuck next year, which allows us to do major setup for the Landmine on Saturday instead of Friday. The ground was so dry that despite all the rain earlier that morning, the ground absorbed it and only isolated places on the course were bad.

Eric said that the Landmine uses a point to point course, except for the marathoners, which helps lower the risk of damage to the trails.

10) Membership Report

Sandy said we have 52 members, but many have still not paid their dues. He found out that the cost of mailing a t-shirt comes out to \$3.92, which is almost the cost of the shirt. Bill noted that we'd suggested giving away t-shirts to members who joined at \$100 and above. This will be continued as a mailing, rather than as a hand out, which was passed by the membership.

It was suggested that we sell t-shirts on the website, if Sandy agrees to mail them out. Vicki asked if this would be part of membership, meaning if they wanted to pay an extra \$10 for a t-shirt, then it would be mailed to them. Carl suggested selling them for \$15, which would include shipping. Vicki will make a link to the shirt, so that people can

purchase them on the website. Eric suggested buying plastic bins to sort them. A new order would include more Mediums, as we have an inordinate amount of large sizes remaining. Pam will buy the bins and get reimbursed for them.

Bill said the corporate membership rate is \$200. Anyone who has not gotten their free t-shirt for paying \$100 in the past will be contacted. Steve C. would like to see us host some sort of community event that will involve the entire community in the park. Carl said we could participate in the Hingham 4th of July parade. Alma also suggested we have flyers available for the annual Fourth of July race that precedes the marathon.

November 8th – Bunker Open House

11) Old Business

- Jim contacted the Order for Preservation of Indian Culture in Canton for someone who would attend our meeting to talk about the logistics of putting on a Powwow since the previous person was not responding to his requests to attend our meeting. The person is enthusiastic and plans to attend the next meeting. They would most likely want us to provide trash pickup, insurance and port-o-johns. Steve G. wondered where would be the best location, and we think the field would work best, especially if we're charging admission because there is limited access. Jim said we'd also have to pay the dancers, but that would be part of the budget. We need to discuss her space requirements.
- Steve C. mentioned that the rail beds that Lars was working on has a lot of poison ivy and can't be used as a family trail until it is eradicated. He asked Steve G. if he knows a professional that could be hired to remove it and the FOW would pay for it. Steve G. will talk to someone about this.
- Jim said he will print out about 100 newsletters to keep in the Visitor Center. They will be expensive because they're in color and are printed on two sides. He will be reimbursed.

12) New Business

- Lars likes to map, and has nice software, so he wants to do mapping of the park. He showed us some maps he's made of the park, including some satellite views. Steve G. would like to work together on new maps that he's producing for the park.
- Steve G. reported that the Saturday Trail Watch person called the police about kids spray painting in the park. The police observed and they were arrested. This shows that the Trail Watch group is doing good work.
- Steve G. noted that some of the trails that were cut for the race will be shut off with small trees so they can grow back in and close themselves naturally.
- Bill said he went to a Stewardship Council meeting earlier this year, and brought up the fact that the rail bed is finished but has a fence across it which does not allow access into Wompatuck. It amounts to a brand new trail that doesn't go anywhere. Bill will bring it up again at the next meeting. It was suggested that a photo be placed on our website with an e-mail contact.

- Steve G. reported that there will be testing for the Burning Grounds area near the campground. Some test pits will be dug, some soil removed, and 3 wells drilled between the Burning Grounds and the Aaron River. One day the fence will come down to add another 8 acres to the park.
- Some descriptive material has been sent to Vicki about activities in the park. She can use more information, and would like members to send her data.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 20th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Submitted by,

Alma Ramos-McDermott
Secretary