



November 21, 2011

Minutes of Meeting

Present

Bill B. (President), Pam J. (Secretary), Jane G. (Treasurer), Sandy C. (Membership), Carl C. (VP Trails), Lars A. (VP), Tom V. (FOW), Carol D. (FOW), Paul (Visitor – Dooty Calls), Steve G. (Park Supervisor)

Number present: 10

Meeting convened at 7:03 PM

Minutes are presented in Agenda order.

Opening Remarks and Introductions (President Bill Boles)

Bill welcomed everyone and all present introduced themselves.

VP Report (Lars)

Lars reported the Trail Care Event on November 5th was well attended and a lot of great work was accomplished, including moving the bridge from N25. The new bridge location needs some stone fill to complete the job. Lars will attend an upcoming presentation of the Friends of Wompatuck funding donation (\$750) for the Weymouth Schools *Big Yellow Bus* project. Bill B. read an essay written by a student, Brendan J., who thoroughly enjoyed his field trip to Wompatuck State Park.

Secretary's Report (Pam)

With no corrections offered, a motion was made and seconded to accept the October Secretary's Report; the vote was unanimous to accept.

Treasurer's Report (Jane)

Jane reported that the current balance in the FOW account is \$27,718.04. Landmine has netted \$9,671.88; there is still one invoice expected from Root 66 for approximately \$400-500. FOW received a thank you note from Dooty Calls for their advertising spot on the new Wompatuck map. FOW paid Pilgrim Paving \$1,000 for recent road repairs; MBRC paid \$500. The Alzheimer's group had offered to fund a portion of the cost of the repair. Steve G. will forward the contact information to Bill B. and Bill will contact the group to ask for a contribution. A motion was made and seconded to accept the October Treasurer's Report; the vote was unanimous to accept.

Membership (Sandy)

Sandy reported that he sent renewal notices to individuals and received a few renewals. Sandy is concerned that about half the membership has not paid their renewal dues. Suggestion was made to continue to reach out to the membership, and that mailing a copy of the new Wompatuck map to members would be a good effort to encourage renewals. Lars will help Sandy print mailing labels; we can work on the mailing at an FOW meeting,

Webpage Report (Vicki – via email from China!)

I recently made the following updates to our website:

- Updated the time and meeting location for the dog sledding demonstration on the dog sledding page as well as our FOW calendar.
- Made some wording adjustments to the membership page for Sandy.
- Added the October meeting minutes.
- Added the Fall newsletter.

If anyone has photos from 2011 Trail Care events, I'd be happy to put them on the website. Also, I think we might want to make a few changes to the What We Do > FOW Projects page. That page currently lists the following projects:

- Maintaining over 1400 feet of bridges that can be found in Wompatuck
- Updating the information kiosks in the park
- Clearing South Field so it is a more family friendly place
- Planting flowers and bushes throughout the park
- Cutting back overgrown trails
- Maintaining the integrity of trails
- Installing equestrian friendly bridges

Do we want to add the Landmine Classic to this list? The coordination of trail care events? Adopt-a-Trail? Trail Watch? The new Wompatuck Map?

I know we've also discussed in the past pulling together an end of the year list of our accomplishments. Maybe someone can volunteer to scour the minutes from the past year and make a list of these items? It would probably look nice on the website and be a fun end of the year reflection.

Finally, I thought you all might like some website statistics.

Since the start of 2011 we've had 3200 visitors to our website homepage. As expected, t. and Sept. alone. Additionally, the Landmine page received 1000 more visits in 2011 than in 2010. (Note: The Landmine page gets the most hits because BikeReg and Root 66 link directly to it).

Historic Auction (Jane G. and Steve G.)

Many historic items from the estate of John A. Richardson were recently available through a public auction. John had a very long standing relationship with Wompatuck, spanning over 50 years, including the detailed inventory of park plants, stone walls, geological sites and other documentation. See the FOW Minutes from February 28, 2011. Jane previewed the items and did not find anything of significance to Wompatuck. Steve G., however, was told by John's family that all Wompatuck artifacts have been set aside for the FOW. Discussion ensued on planning an event to display these collections at the Visitor Center to honor John's outstanding and significant work in Wompatuck. Discussion also included to honor John by naming the common room in the Visitor Center after him. A motion was made and seconded to rename the common room in the Visitor Center the "John A. Richardson Room" and to install a plaque with his name; the vote was unanimous to accept. Steve G. will follow up with next steps.

Landmine 2012 and Adopt-A-Trail (Tyler – via email.)

The following email was NOT presented during the meeting as it was not received prior to the start. However, it is included here for reference and for future discussion.

Landmine: we are locked in with Root 66's schedule for 2012 for 09/09/12. I confirmed with Jill via email today. Continuing work on updating the race manual/"bible" that the Schow's drafted last year and will be looking to confirm 2012 scheduling with timing vendor in Dec. or Jan. at the latest. I will circle back with the group before any final decision is made if this may occur prior to the Dec. meeting. I received a note (as did others) from Carl discussing options for media coverage for Landmine as well as registration of active service members, both were excellent ideas that I've filed with notes for 2012 Landmine.

Adopt-a-trail: moving forward (slowly), I still owe Tom F. an email detailing what we already have in place after his generous offer to assist with this program last month. I have a draft of this in my mailbox that I need to finish & send.

Trail Care Planning (Carl)

Carl will add a number of suggestions during the discussion on how to apply FOW funds for trail care, including South Field expansion, specific trail maintenance (suggestions from Alma and Claire), and park entrance repair and upgrade.

Carl also added that it would be great to develop/sponsor programs to encourage women and children to use the park by sponsoring rides specific to those groups. He would also like to develop a helmet awareness program and safety program for bikers and long-boarders. Comment was made that some organizations have used gift certificates for treats (ice cream) for kids who have been “caught” wearing helmets and riding safely. This is possibly something the Trail Watch Wompatuck team could consider.

Spending FOW Funds on Wompatuck – Idea Session

The following is a list of ideas offered during this session:

- Specific trail repair to be identified by members (Alma and Claire have specific trails identified)
- Re-do the park entrance. There is a possibility that the gatehouse will be demolished. Members noted that it would be great to even just put a fresh coat of paint on the gatehouse.
- Entrance road repair.
- Doane Street entrance road repair. Doane Street continues to sink and the park is often inaccessible due to flooding.
- Wompatuck Museum in the depot building. That building has not been turned over yet and would require roof repair. Someone would have to “champion” the project to make it happen and to allow the museum to be open to the public.
- Installation of “bollards” on the bike path near the orchard and removal of blockade boulders that were placed to protect access to water supply.
- Replacement of chain link fence at Mt. Blue, South Pleasant and Doane Street entrances with 4’ chain link fencing.
- Replace first three slabs of walkway entrance to the Visitor Center
- Expanding South Field to accommodate more vehicles to increase Landmine volume
- Building a community garden. Note was made that the Trustees of Turkey Hill may be working on a similar project.
- Placing trail locators and maps throughout the park. “You are here” signs.
- Placing benches throughout the park.

Discussion ensued regarding how to prioritize projects, how to estimate costs and how to proceed at this point with planning. Access to the park and safety in the park are important considerations. All agreed we should work to identify projects that would best be completed by hiring/funding professionals; projects that cannot easily be completed by FOW volunteers. Projects of that nature included:

- Doane Street walkway and repair
- South Field expansion
- Bollard installation
- Chain link fence installation
- Visitor Center entrance repair

All agreed to work on obtaining cost estimates for the projects identified. Steve G. said he will work on estimates for South Field, bollard installation, chain link fences and Visitor Center walkway repair.

Steve G. recommended we contact the Cohasset Conservation Commission to begin the process of defining the problem and possible solutions for the flooding at Doane Street. Mention was made that there was a similar problem in Pembroke; Steve will find out who the contractor was. In order to move forward with addressing the Doane Street issue, a motion was made and seconded to contact the Cohasset Conservation Commission to start the process of evaluating the possibility of working on the Doane Street Walkway; the vote was unanimous to proceed by setting up a meeting with members of the Commission and walking through the site. Steve G. and Pam will work on this. Comment was made that if approved, there also may be opportunities for apply for grants to complete the work. We need to include handicap accessibility plans.

Jane indicated that we need to determine how much we need to hold in the FOW account to manage cash flow needs for Landmine and other FOW expenses throughout the year. Jane will work on totaling operating expenses and pre-race expenses. Recommendation was made that we should keep two years of operating capital in the account. We will address the specifics in upcoming meetings.

The following suggestions were not presented during the meeting but were forwarded in an email from Tyler:

I would like to continue to expand FOWs tool capacity for trail maintenance and for Landmine preparations. This would include various hand tools, additional staples for course markings, possibly a cordless power pack with was valuable for bridge repairs in 2011, etc. If possible a chainsaw would be extremely helpful. Perhaps the purchase of a "tree maintenance device" rather than a chainsaw? As discussed in the Sept. & Oct. meetings large scale trail projects (i.e. Steve G.'s "banked bridge" proposal near the W1 fence line) would also be good candidates for using some of our funds.

New Business

Public Relations and Advertising

We will talk about more PR and advertising for Wompy at the next monthly meeting.

Eagle Scout Project

Steve G. recommended we visit a recently completed Eagle Scout project at our "sister" site at Cushing Memorial Park.

Old Business

Dog Complaints

Steve G. addressed the continuing problem of owners not keeping their dogs under control in the park. He recommended that if anyone encounters a problem with dogs/owners, one option is to obtain the license plate number of the owner's vehicle and report the incident.

Important Dates

Due to the holidays, we will NOT meet in December.

January 16, 2012 – Monthly Meeting for Nominations for FOW Officers

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:47 PM with everyone rushing home to watch the Pats!

Respectfully submitted by:

Pam Johnson, Secretary