

## Meeting Notes FOW 8/18/2008

Let's just start off by saying we miss Alma!!!

**In Attendance:** Ranger Matt, Supervisor Steve, Regional Supervisor Don, Malcolm N. Bill B., Eric O., Jane G., Sandy C., Jim D, Lars A., Carl Casale, Pam J., Mark S., Steve C

### *Officer's Report*

#### **Bill**-Introductions

**Eric Treasurer's Report**- Current FOW balance available on request. Eric is keeping track of Landmine expenses to date so we can compare our expenses to our gross take after the event. This will be easier in the long run.

**Steve C.** - Upcoming Trail Care Day this Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM at the VC. Eric will plan the areas to be cutback.

**Sandy**- Membership drive is still going on. Sandy sent out another reminder to past members to renew.

**Vicki** (from Bill & Mark) - She is always looking for new content. Please e-mail all relevant information to [Vicki.schow@hotmail.com](mailto:Vicki.schow@hotmail.com). Landmine course map is online at our site! Needs info for the equestrian section and the hiking section in particular. This is important so please share all your photos!!

**Jim R.** - FOW Newsletter #8 was sent out this week so please let Jim know if you did not receive a copy.

**Malcolm**- FOW T-shirts have arrived! Malcolm presented the new t-shirts both green and orange. People who join at the \$100 level get a free T-shirt. Cost of shirt was \$4.60 per shirt. We will sell them for \$10. We can try online sales. Don says we can sell them at the Visitor Center but DCR staff cannot sell them, only Friends members. We will sell both colors to the public. Fro now, they will only be available at events.

### *New Business-*

**Introducing Trailwatch Wompatuck (Bill)** - Gave history of TW at the Blue Hills and the relationship to us. TW BH has been a very successful program and we hope it will continue to be successful at Wompatuck. Pam expressed an interest in joining the group. She will talk with Steve about candidacy for the next group of volunteers. Eric will be posting a group photo with a description of the purpose for the program in all the kiosks after the initial meeting this Wednesday evening.

**Geocaching (Mark)** - Asked whether geocaching is officially recognized by DCR. The official position at this point is that it is inappropriate trail use. DCR is aware that it is

widely prevalent in the park. Don stated that geocachers could go into environmentally and historically sensitive areas unknowingly, which is one of the big problems. Bill added that on a positive note geocaching can be a good thing b/c it exposes more people to fun features in a park and can help people learn about the park. Pam, an avid geocacher, stated most of the caches in Womp are on trails. She will act as a liaison to the geocaching community to encourage people to use established trails

**Bunker Project (Andy M. via Bill B.)** Andy would like to finish drainage work on the bunker project in Oct and needs a crew to help with the work and is petitioning FOW to pay for the supplies, possibly including a jackhammer rental. The group discussed the issue. More specifics will be needed before giving final approval to fund the supplies but the group agreed to support the project in principal.

**DCR Communication (Steve G.)-** Steve reiterated the need for all park staff and volunteers to follow the established chain of command which means taking issues that may come up to Steve first rather than taking issues to DCR in Boston. Jim D. expressed his frustration about not receiving enough support from FOW or DCR in general. Specifically, he feels information is lacking for visitors and that FOW members have not volunteered time on the w/e's to help him. He wants to see more info about features of the park to hand out to visitors. He said Steve Gammon has been great and has given him all relevant information but he would like to see more so he contacted someone at DCR headquarters. Don added that the role of a volunteer is to give information that is available and not to try to answer every question asked. It is important to remember we are not DCR employees. We are not to take on the burden of a DCR staff person. That is the park supervisor and support staff's job. So, when issues come up, follow the chain of command and talk to Steve. His job is to deal with operational issues in the park and he will contact other DCR personal as needed. That is not our job.

Don went on to comment that FOW is very important to the park and DCR really appreciates all the volunteer work we do!

#### *Old Business-*

**Trail Care Day-** Sunday will be a trail care day at the park. Arrive at the Visitor Center at 8:30 to start work at 9 AM. The focus will be prepping the race course. Eric will compile a list of trails that need attention for that day. Steve also mentioned that some of the rail trails cleared by Lars are festering with poison ivy. He asked the group for possible solutions. Steve indicated that he may have a DCR staff person available to apply pesticide.

**Landmine Update-** Eric stated all aspects are coming together nicely. He still needs to purchase prizing and cutbacks are still needed. Bill will begin arrowing in a week or so. Blue mile markers will be placed along the course and appropriate signage to alert riders to impending course challenges. Currently have 20 volunteers!!!! Excellent news!

*New Business*

**FOW /Bunker Ceremony Party-** The unveiling will be on November 8th. Jim R. suggested we have a FOW get together following the ceremony. Military personal, Scouts, and FOW members will be in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Oddleifson