



February 28, 2011

Minutes of Meeting

Present

Lars A. (Vice President), Pam J. (Secretary), Jane G. (Treasurer), Mark S., Vicki S. (Web), Elli S. (FOW), Carl C. (Trails), Sandy C. (Membership), Tyler (Landmine), Jason P. (EMS), AJ (EMS), Steve G. (Park Supervisor)

Number present: 12 members for possibly the longest FOW meeting on record!

Meeting convened at 7:06 PM and it was the MARATHON of all meetings!

Minutes are presented in Agenda order.

Opening Remarks and Introductions

Vice President Lars ran the meeting in President Bill Boles' absence. We all introduced ourselves and shared our interests and activities at a mid-point in the meeting! Lars welcomed Jason and AJ from EMS and indicated that they would be addressing the group later in the agenda.

VP Report (Lars)

Lars said that he had presented the FOW Honorary Membership plaque to Dane at REI and shared a photo that had been taken of Lars and Dane with the plaque. REI will be displaying the FOW plaque in the Hingham store. Vicki and Mark presented the honorary membership plaque to *bikebarn*, and Kevin was pleased as well. Carl presented the third membership plaque to the Simms Brothers and they were also honored to be recognized.

Lars also mentioned that REI will be re-issuing the grant check that had been misplaced. Lars also reported that he and Pam had reviewed the requirements for the "Everyday" grant that had been discussed at the January meeting. Although we met the requirements, Lars and Pam agreed that the amount of work required to produce a quality submission was significant, and that we would want to make an excellent impression when we do submit for a grant. Given that we have grant monies to be working with this year, Lars and Pam decided it was best to wait until we have a very definite project to document and submit.

Secretary's Report (Pam)

Pam asked the members present if there were any corrections to the minutes from the January FOW meeting. With no corrections offered, a motion was made and seconded to accept the January Secretary's Report; the vote was unanimous to accept.

Treasurer's Report (Jane)

Jane reported that there has not been too much activity. We still have grant funding available from NEMBA (\$6,788) and will have to submit expenses to NEMBA for payment. The current balance in the FOW account is \$18,217.22. A motion was made and seconded to accept the January Treasurer's Report; the vote was unanimous to accept.

Membership (Sandy)

Sandy reported there are currently 99 members listed; we had 2 renewals. Sandy will also include a list of FOW accomplishments when he sends out reminders notices. A motion was made and seconded to accept the January Membership report; the vote was unanimous to accept.

Trails Report (Carl)

Carl reported that “it’s a mess out there” on the trails, with a lot of horizontal trees and a lot of ice. He and Tyler met to discuss the transfer of responsibilities (as Tyler is now the Landmine Director). Carl and Tyler have not made any purchases yet, but Carl will work on acquiring the previously identified tools including: wheelbarrows, “Pulaskis”, other trail cutting tools, shovels, rakes, other trail maintenance supplies and sharpening tools. \$500 was previously voted by the group as a budget to purchase tools and supplies.

Discussion ensued about “branding” bridges. Lars presented an AMAZING sample of routed bridge branding options, including our FOW logo. Steve G. indicated that he could produce routed bridge signs pretty quickly, but that the FOW logo Lars created should be kept as a Wompy treasure! (Aside from the Secretary to Bill – wait until you see this etched logo!)

We discussed Trail Care dates. Steve G. said that Park Serve Day is April 16th and the Regional Supervisor, Brian Shanahan, will run that event this year due to Steve’s absence. That day should be directed to park beautification, such as planting flowers and light trail work.

Steve also said it would be important to be sure we coordinate all dates with him as there is one master calendar for all events in the park. Sandy raised a question about “National Public Lands Day” and Steve indicated there may be a conflict with the Melanoma Education Foundation road race.

Activities for upcoming trail care events are presented later in this report.

Landmine Classic (Tyler)

Tyler, Mark, Vicki and Kevin (*bikebarn*) met to work out the transition of race management from Mark to Tyler. Vicki said that the permit and paperwork for DCR and USA cycling is in process.

We discussed the benefits of having placed an ad for 3 issues in Single Tracks year and agreed that we should place the ad for 2011. Tyler also said that we should increase the advertising for the “Marathon” category as it is one of only a few big, long races in the area. A motion was made and seconded to approve \$513 for placing an ad in Single Tracks for Landmine 2011; the vote was unanimous to accept.

Discussion ensued regarding prize money (“purse”) for the race. Tyler, Mark, Vicki and Kevin addressed some inconsistencies in the purse splits and the need to have a purse that would at least cover the entry fee for the racers, particularly in the marathon class. The total purse in 2010 was \$1,000. After analysis of the purse, Tyler requested the purse be increased to \$2,000 for 2011. A motion was made and seconded to increase the 2011 Landmine purse to \$2,000; the vote was unanimous to accept.

Discussion ensued regarding pre-registration on the BikeReg website and the fees that are added to each registration by BikeReg as a “service charge” to each racer. We want to encourage as many riders as possible to pre-register (aside: from the chair of Registration and the Registration team was a loud cheer in support of pre-registration!) Tyler suggested that FOW pay the service charge for all racers, allowing Landmine to indicate that pre-registration is truly a flat fee. The approximate service charge for a field of 400+ racers will be \$600. A motion was made and seconded to pay the \$600 Landmine BikeReg service charge; the vote was unanimous to accept.

We also discussed options for changing the registration fee structure in the future, including “tiering” fees. We agreed to address fees for Landmine 2012 at a later date. Discussion ensued regarding the maximum size of the race. It was noted that the trails could handle 500 racers; the only limitation cited is the issue of parking.

Mark and Vicki indicated that they will be sure to get the consecutive races numbers (all 1,000 of them!) from Root66 staff. They again reminded us that BART will be doing the timing this year; the Cub Scouts will be working the food concession.

Webpage Report (Vicki)

Vicki has updated the website with the most recent minutes and also posted Jim Rose’s Wompatuck News issue. Thanks again to Jim for producing another fascinating edition!

PMC Kids Ride (Lars)

Lars reported on behalf of the PMC coordinators who were unable to attend the meeting. The PMC Kids Ride will be held June 12th and the coordinators have again asked for our help in coordinating the mountain bike ride. There will be a volunteer kick off meeting on March 9th at 7 PM at the Hingham Public Library. Pam will send out a reminder notice to the FOW group.

Trail Care Planning for 2011 (Carl, Steve, Lars)

All agreed that it is extremely important to have a plan for each event! For the first event on March 13th we discussed sending small groups out onto the trails to start the clean-up process and to report major work to be done, including tree falls that need to be chain-sawed. There can also be a small group of more experienced trail maintainers to work on bridge repair. Carl agreed to organize the assignments and tools for the first event. Pam will send out a reminder notice prior to each trail care event.

March 13	Sunday
April 9	Saturday
April 16	Park Serve Day to be determined
June ?	National Trail Day to be determined
July 17	Sunday
August 20	Saturday
November 5	Saturday

Park Projects

Grant Requirements

We will need to develop plans to use REI and NEMBA grant monies for rail trails, equestrian bridge upgrades and bridge resurfacing at upcoming meetings.

Other Park Projects

Other items listed in the agenda, including benches, Doane Street bog bridge, trail name signs and historical walk signs were not addressed and will be included on next month's agenda.

Conservation Commission Presentation (Steve G.)

Steve reported that Brendan will be presenting his work and request for permitting to the Hingham Conservation Committee on March 14th at 7 PM at the Hingham Town Hall. Steve asked members to please attend this meeting! Pam will work with Steve and Brendan prior to the meeting to be sure the Power Point presentation and projector work! We will be sure we have FOW brochures to distribute at the meeting.

FOW Park Map (Steve G.)

Steve said there are only a few cases of the DCR-issued park map remaining and that he does not anticipate that there will be funding in the future for maps. Lars will start working to finish the work on our new FOW map. We can address the issue of sponsorship at the next meeting.

Old Business

Dogs on Doane Street (Steve G.)

Steve G. is still waiting for a response from the Cohasset dog officer and police department to address this growing problem. They are addressing ticketing offenders and using "Dooty Calls". Steve also noted that there had been an issue with a professional dog walker who had been denied a permit to use the park to walk dogs because it is policy that private concerns cannot make money from use of a state resource.

Bridge "Branding" (Carl, Lars)

Previously mentioned in these minutes, we addressed the issue of "labeling" or "branding" our bridges with the FOW name or logo. Carl had gotten a quote for engraved PVC pieces of \$11.24 per piece with an order of 100 pieces; aluminum plates cost approximately \$15. Concern was raised about the longevity of the PVC or aluminum plates. The routed signs may be the better choice; Steve G. again indicated it does not take long to router the name. Cutting the FOW round logo, as Lars showed us, would take a little longer. ☺

Bridge Anti-slip Covering

Sandy F. was unable to attend the meeting. She will provide pricing information for the surfacing material used on marina docks, and is also working on quotes for metal trail map signs. She had asked for weight requirements for the bridges – a horse can weigh 2K pounds.

Eagle Scout Bridge Project (Steve G.)

Nick has made amazing progress in spite of the weather and has even poured the footings for the bridge!

DCR Stewardship Meeting was a success at Wompatuck on February 4, 2011 (Steve G.)

Several FOW members attended the DCR Stewardship meeting and made a great impression on the board! Wompatuck State Park campground will remain open for the 2011 season! We do not have a decision about the demolition of buildings or on the rail trail to the commuter train.

New Business

EMS "Roll It Forward" Bike Project

Justin and AJ attended the meeting to speak with us about a bike project EMS is working to promote called, "Roll It Forward". EMS has secured a grant to cover the cost of labor to repair donated bikes and to give the repaired bikes "forward" to inner city kids. This project is supported by the Not-for-Profit division of EMS. The program works as follows: anyone can bring a used bike into EMS as a donation and receive a voucher for 20% off any full-priced item in the store! EMS then uses up to \$40 from the grant to supply parts and to cover labor to repair the bike, and then the refurbished bike is given to a kid in the city. What a great program! Everyone benefits! EMS has a goal of rolling forward 1,000 donated bikes. So get out there and donate your bike! Drop off your bike at the EMS store in Hingham Shipyard.

Justin and AJ also mentioned that "Club Day" will be held on April 8th and 9th in the Hingham store. FOW is welcome to come and set up a table and to have our FOW membership brochures available. They also said that FOW members are entitled to the club discount of 20% off on those two club days. In the past, Steve C. has set up the NEMBA table. Suggestion was made to ask if we can put the FOW brochures on the NEMBA table. Chris Bonzagne is the contact at EMS; Pam agreed to follow up with club day set up.

Historic Maps and Works of John Richardson

Steve G. told the group about the amazing work of John Richardson, a geologist and historian, who had been hired by the state in the early 1980's to create a detailed inventory of park plants, stone walls, geological sites, and other areas of historical significance. Steve noted that sadly, John Richardson passed away on February 8, 2011, and with his passing is a tremendous loss of knowledge and love of the park.

Steve shared with us two incredible maps that had been created, and that Steve had enlarged, detailing every nook and cranny of the park! Steve also shared four notebooks containing the detailed logs of every nook, cranny, plant, stone wall, creature, bog, pond, leaf, tree (the list goes on and on) that John had maintained throughout the course of his project. The group was getting entirely wrapped up reading the logs and the maps, when we realized it was almost 10 PM!

Pam agreed to find containers to protect these treasures and that we will lock and store this legacy of John Richardson's life work in the FOW storage closet. We also agreed that it would be a wonderful way to spend another evening pouring through these logs!

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held:

March 21, 2011

7 PM

Visitor Center

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:41 PM. (Yes – really – it was almost 10 PM!)

Respectfully submitted by:

Pam Johnson

FOW Secretary