

Friends of Wompatuck Minutes
May 18, 2009

Brought to order at 7:08

Attendance: Lars A. (vice president), Eric O. (race manager) Jane G.(Treasurer), Pam J. (most excited member – Ms. Wompy Congeniality), Malcolm N., Mark S. Sandy C. (membership), Dana D., Carl C., Steve G. (park supervisor), and Vicki S. (webmistress)

Present: 11

1) Opening Remarks

A round of introductions.

President Bill B. is away – V.P. Lars presiding. Alma is sick so Vicki is taking notes.

2) Vice President's Report (Lars)

Not much beyond what will be discussed later.

3) Secretary's Report

Alma is missing so we will accept minutes at the next meeting.

4) Treasurer's Report (Jane)

Jane reported that we had \$6000 until today when a check was cashed for South Field renovations. We now have a little less than \$2000. However, there are no more major race expenses though and we are expecting another \$1800 family gift soon towards the renovations.

Mark S. asked whether we were over budget on the South Field project. Eric said yes. We hired someone to finish the work which cost \$6500 including the dirt. However we had \$4800 that came in to help pay for the project.

5) Membership Report (Sandy)

We had four members join this past month plus a benefactor. We are just about to start renewals

6) Website Report (Vicki)

Vicki S and Bill B. beta tested the new Google checkout and their membership renewals were processed easily. The page will be up in a few days so everyone can renew online. She asked for feedback on how to label the "join" page on the website because you also do renewals and can purchase t-shirts there. It was suggest we change this link to "Store" on the website and maybe also offer the FOW decals in it.

Jane G. said she hopes more people still pay by check because we have to pay a processing fee. However, Vicki S. said it is a nominal fee and worth it because more people will join if they don't have to fill something out and mail it in.

Vicki S. will send an e-mail to the forum when the site is open for online renewals.

7) Membership Initiatives

Lars A. said the committee hasn't formally done much since the brochure.

Pam J. said we ordered a new banner and will have it set up Sat., May 23rd during an information session. She also sent Vicki S. pictures of the t-shirts to include on the website so people will see them when they join online. Carl C. said it costs about \$3 to mail a t-shirt. Pam J. affirmed that and said she had e-mailed Vicki S. the cost of mailing one and two t-shirts.

Pam J. also mentioned the extra map boxes we still have to hang. We decided to wait to discuss this once Steve G. arrived.

The Sat., May 23rd event will be our first time we are set up and open to the public handing out brochures and selling. The table and tent will be set up by Eric O. The banner has already been printed. It is 2x6 and was \$80. Sandy will bring decals for the table. The event is 10AM-2PM and TrailWatch members will be dispersed on the trails and Eric O. will man the table. Pam J. wants to see how this goes and then plans on setting up in different areas around the park on different weeks.

Pam J. has been stuffing maps with the new brochures. We are not sure of the results yet. Eric O. says one box of brochures is already gone. Pam J. is going to track down the other boxes to make sure they're always accounted for.

Pam J. also wants us to get some newspaper coverage for FOW and Wompatuck. Sandy C. has a contact at the Hingham Journal. She wants to get an article done on cheap things to do during the recession.

Does Bill B. know anyone at the Boston Globe?

It was suggested the we see if Whole Foods would donate any food for Saturday. Eric O. is baking cookies. Sandy C. said he would eat a dozen.

Lars A. said they have also thought of making a little poster based on the brochure, especially to place in the kiosks. We need to replace the old info.

Sandy and Carl think we should also put them in places like REI, Community Centers, or Banks with little plastic holders for brochures.

The membership committee agreed to meet again

8) History Walk

Jim Rose was not present but he put on a fantastic history tour throughout the park on Sun., May 17th. There were 25-30 people. Carl asked for the mix of non-FOW to others. At least 5 or 6 veterans/civilians connected to the park or era came.

There was an old map with the old railroad network, bunkers numbered, etc. It was suggested we scan it and keep it in our records.

Dana D. suggested we scan the old map and overlay it on a new map. He said he contacted a friend to find out what would be involved in doing that. If his friend can't, his son might be able to because he is a graphic designer. Maybe we could even have it replace the normal trail map so people could understand the history.

Lars A. said he could probably do the overlay if someone else could scan the old map since it is too big for him to do.

Mark S. is to check with Jim R. to find out where he can get the map and scan the map at work.

Pam J is also going to contact Jim R. to get the addresses of the veteran who came to the walk so we can send them thank you notes.

9) South Field

Eric O. said the field is about 40-50% bigger now after all the cutbacks. After we did the cutbacks Eric O. and Steve G. decided to hire Iaria Brothers to finish the work of leveling the field. The company brought in all the dirt that was needed, which made it easier for us because we didn't have to guess. Eric O. said it was also nice because then he and Steve G. didn't have to do anything more – they told the guy what they wanted and he did the rest! It was an unexpected expense to have to pay for but worth it.

Eric O. also reported we are going to build a permanent stage at the back of the field – about 20x30. We're renting bleachers but building a stage. We'll do a temporary structure for a canopy. We'd like to have the stage 2' off the ground. It will be used for the band, awards, announcements, etc. Steve G. will be designing the actual stage. He said we are going to use all concrete forms we already have from Andy M. and it shouldn't cost us anything. Steve G. said he has a lady who will sell us a 20x30 tent for \$100.

Mark S. suggested we talk to GT before we build the stage in case they already have a stage or we need to. Eric O. said he mentioned it to them and they didn't comment.

Eric O. would like to have a South Field Day later in the summer so the public knows it is back there.

Mark S. asked whether we can keep the gate open to it so people can drive back there.

Sandy C. asked about picnic areas in the park. Mark S. said we can't technically have them because then we would need a bathroom nearby. Mark S. suggested we maybe build a self-posting outhouse with proceeds from the race. Jane G. expressed concern about destruction to any permanent structures like the stage or an outhouse.

Eric O. asked Carl C. to meet with him later in the summer to eyeball the parking situation for the race. There will be a lot more parking because this year the race won't come back into the field which will allow for a larger lot.

Mark and Vicki said the new burm is awesome.

In short, South Field is pretty much done.

10) TrailWatch

As previously mention, Eric O. said TrailWatch will be having its official launch on Saturday, May 23rd.

11) Old Business

- June 6th is to be FOW Build a Bridge Day/BBQ. No one knew who was in charge. Pam said she knew Alma R. is to send out the evite and that she had offered to plan the BBQ portion. However, she now had a family conflict and will not be able to come. Eric O. asked for clarification on what this event is and where it would be. Eric O. suggested we hold the BBQ at Pam J.'s house. Pam agreed to host it at her house if the date was moved to June 13th. Everyone agreed this was best. The work crew will meet at 8:30AM, we'll build a bridge or two, and then we'll go to Pam's home for lunch. Steve G. has the bridge projects planned.
- Lars A. and Sandy C. went to the old rail trail Lars A. worked on last summer to clean it off and check the poison ivy. Lars said the trail is actually fairly clear of poison ivy and shouldn't need anymore attention.
- Lars A. has done the first part of the mapping of south field and will do the second half soon.
- Lars A. and Pam J. checked with an organization called Rails to Trails Conservancy to see if they can give tips on how to address our problem with the dead end trail. Pam J. browsed their website to learn more about them. She said most of it provides grassroots information but she didn't find the next step yet. Lars A. wants to contact someone higher in the organization. Steve G. said he knows someone there who might help us learn to apply some pressure. Steve G. is going to send Lars A. the contact information. Steve G. said that people keep cutting the fence around the annex despite posting signs and fixing holes. Sandy C. said we should all speak to our represetatives about it and identified a time to meet with one. Steve G. suggested we invite our representatives to an FOW meeting soon to corner them on the issue. Pam volunteered her husband, Steve J., to contact Garrett Bradley.

12) New Business

- We were given an update Eric O.'s health.
- Steve said an equestrian broke a bridge outside of the bridal bridge. Mark suggested we do the horizontal board test on that bridge when we fix it. Lars and Mark said that bridge already was weak.
- Pam J. said there is a muddy spot near NW11-W2 – Steve G. said it is related to the sewer because of the electrical repairs.
- Dana D. mentioned he saw informal structures in the woods. Steve G. said they are from the boy scouts.
- Mark S. said the Google map is really wrong when giving directions to Wompatuck and said we should claim our listing to move the marker and get Google to block off the gates on the map that are closed and open Union St. Lars A. said that Google gets their data

from the Tiger Data that the Census puts together so we would need to contact a secondary vendor like Tele Atlas (a group Google gets maps from) but they probably don't care about our small part.

- Related to that, Lars A. brought up Open Street Map (openstreetmap.org). It is open in two senses - anyone can register and edit it. Lars has been working on editing Wompatuck's map and it is substantially better. He said it used to look like the Google map. He passed around his edited version.
- Pam J. asked Steve G. how hard it will be to hang the remaining map boxes. The idea is to do a "You Are Here" map with a map box. Lars A. asked how water tight they are when they are not under a kiosk and Steve G. said that the hinge is made from a fire hose so they are pretty water tight. It was suggested we place them at the transfer station. Malcolm suggested we place them in a couple of places in the campground since people don't like to have to walk on the roads to get a map. Steve G. said that things in the campground get destroyed. Steve G. suggested the Building 80 area should get a box because it is a long way from any other kiosk.
- Pam J. also mentioned that the new N32 sign is in a strange place – beyond the trail. Steve G. said they need to get a post to put it on.
- Steve G. said we are getting new maps soon and there is new information on them. Before there was FOW there was a Wompatuck Trails Committee that made suggestions for trails. Steve G. suggested that we open up changes to all of FOW and have them submit trail suggestions throughout the year. In early December we can then review them and make decisions about what changes to make to the map before we submit it to the state.
- Eric O. met with the cub scouts during their Gymboree last week to give them a pitch to do the food for the Landmine race. They are to give us a decision by June 1st. If they do it we will get 10% of the proceeds. Jane asked if they have ever done something like that before and Eric said no. Jane said that might be a problem if they don't know how to plan for large groups. Eric said we would help them but we really just need their manpower day of.
- Eric O. also gave the Hingham Fire Department a proposal to come patrol our race. We should get an answer from them in the next month.
- Mark S. asked how the wiring was fixed. Steve said it was buried conduit – the good method. He had to put in a change order but it got done!

13) Future Meeting

Monday, June 15th is the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06PM

Submitted by Vicki Schow

Webmistress and Secretary for a Day