



**March 19, 2012**

### **Minutes of Meeting**

#### **Present**

Bill B. (President), Pam J. (Secretary), Jane G. (Treasurer), Sandy C. (Membership), Carl C. (VP Trails), Mia B. (Girls Scouts of America), Judy S. (FOW), David S. (FOW), Lars A. (VP), Lisa P. (PMC Kids Ride), Jackie T. (PMC Kids Ride), Richard H. (FOW)

Number present: 12

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.

Bill reported that Malcolm N. will be working to start a Friends of Ames Nowell group. FOW has supported Ames Nowell in a number of projects and recently donated lumber for bridge work.

Bill read an email report from Park Supervisor Steve Gammon who had to attend the Scituate Coastal Coalition meeting. "Bollards are installed on the bike trail. The brush in South Field has been burned. Most of the winter deadfalls have been removed but still working on a few more." Steve also commented on the great work being done at Ames Nowell. Steve also said he has a suggestion for the C5-C10 trail. Instead of repairing this "ancestral" trail, re-routing may be a better option.

Bill read an email report from Tyler addressing the Wompatuck Adopt-A-Trail program. We are still in the testing phase of the link and will forward information on how to join. Tyler will manage requests for managing specific trails.

#### **VP Report (Bill B. for Lars)**

Lars reported that he will add comments as we move through the agenda. He commented that he also rode in Ames Nowell and the park is shaping up. Lars will be working on developing a map for Ames Nowell. Lars also reported that Eaton's Pond in Quincy is also shaping up nicely.

#### **Secretary's Report (Pam)**

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

#### **Treasurer's Report (Jane)**

Jane reported that the current balance in the FOW account is \$21,612.59.

Recent expenditures include costs for stone and gravel; glass ware from Landmine; insurance premium for FOW officers and Directors; bollards installation; and work on the Mt. Blue entrance. FOW members are asked to go to the Mt. Blue entrance to see the changes made with the wooden fencing and the removal of the chain link fence at the entrance. At the January meeting, decision was made to make entrance improvements at Mt. Blue and then vote whether or not to complete the same work at the South Pleasant and Doane Street entrances; this will be on the April agenda.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the February Treasurer's Report; the vote was unanimous to accept.

### Membership (Sandy)

Sandy reported that we have 107 members. Sandy sent a mailing to all FOW members with a map and a reminder to renew dues. Thanks to Lars for printing labels and return addresses. There were 6 renewals last month; 2 benefactor memberships. There are still 50 members on the list who have not renewed at this time. We will keep those members on the mailing list with hopes that at some point they will renew. Carl mentioned that we need to add contacts from “Dooty Calls” to the mailing list; Sandy will get the information to Pam. A motion was made and seconded to accept the February Membership Report; the vote was unanimous to accept.

### Webpage Report (Vicki – supporting the website from China!)

Bill read an email (at the opening of the meeting) from Vicki (via China) addressing a Special Opportunity with DCR for a State Parks Youth Ambassador and a State Parks Senior Ambassador.

### Insurance Issues (Jane and Bill)

Bill and Jane addressed the liability insurance coverage for FOW Officers and Directors. Jane updated the email contact information and the premium, due in April, has been paid. FOW also has an insurance policy that covers FOW members for volunteer work, especially to cover work on trails. There are very specific restrictions in the policy, such as, no FOW volunteer can use any type of power tool in the Park. Most groups using the Park have to have insurance for their event, including indemnity for FOW. Judy S. asked a question about how to handle incidents with dogs in the Park. Bill responded that the Dog Officer for the Town in which the incident occurs should be contacted and this is not a Park insurance issue but an individual dog-owner responsibility.

### Pan Mass Challenge South Shore Kids Ride (Lisa Patterson and Jackie Temple)

The PMC South Shore Kids Ride will be held on Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a check in, registration pick-up and raffle on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Visitor Center. Lisa informed the group that the “name” of the ride has been changed to PMC South Shore Kids Ride to better define that participants are from a number of towns on the South Shore and not just from Hingham. 13 towns were represented last year with over 400 riders who raised over \$60,000 for the Jimmy Fund and Dana-Farber Institute. The PMC SS Kids Ride is the largest of 35 kids rides in New England! This year Lisa and Jackie hope to have 500 kids in the ride. Lisa also thanked FOW and NEMBA – the event just couldn’t happen without the support of these two groups.

Question was raised about the “old” trail map posted on the PMC Kids Ride website. Lars reported that there are only minor changes to the newly published map. Lisa also asked if it is ok to use the dumpster. Bill will check with Steve G. Lisa also reported that there was enough parking, and noted that space is available all the way to Union Street.

Discussion ensued regarding safety issues. Lisa and Jackie attended a PMC meeting and discussion included helmet safety checks. Due to liability issues, PMC cannot have volunteers perform helmet safety checks. REI is offering free helmets checks when kids bring their bikes to REI for a pre-ride tune up. Carl C. said he will contact REI to ask if he can volunteer to do helmet checks. Lisa said she had found information on the Massachusetts Medical Society website for posters and stickers on helmet safety and will look into this further. Lisa suggested Carl may be able to sign up as a PMC Safety Liaison volunteer. Hingham Police Department Officer Ramsay also does helmet safety checks and Carl may be able to volunteer to work with HPD.

Another safety issue included covering the railroad tracks on the course routes. Last year mats were placed over the tracks, but many riders did not know to ride over the mats. Carl will take a look at the track areas. Suggestion was made to fill the gaps with asphalt. Carl will look into this option.

Volunteers need to register online and kids can pre-register online as well: [kids.pmc.org/hingham/](http://kids.pmc.org/hingham/)

**Trail Care Report – South Field (Carl C. – VP Trails)**

Carl reported that a tremendous amount of work has been completed at South Field for the planned expansion. Carl also talked with Steve G. about digging a trench to help drainage in South Field. More fill and crushed stone will be needed to complete the work.

**Next Trail Care Event March 31<sup>st</sup> (Carl C. – VP Trails)**

In preparation for 2012 trail work, Carl found a “bucket cart” that holds 150 pounds of crushed stone. He moved 3,000 pounds of stone in 4 hours to fill the trail at South Pleasant Street toward NW5. The “Broll Tool” costs about \$72, has two wheels and is very stable on the trails.

FOW also has the muck truck which can move 500 pounds at a time. Lars asked if anyone is maintaining the muck truck; Carl will follow up with Steve G. to be sure it is in working condition for the March 31<sup>st</sup> trail care work. Carl said the bike trailer only holds about 70 pounds and is difficult to manage on trails. Best use is for carting equipment to work sites.

Carl would like to purchase a double-wheel wheel barrow, which costs approximately \$500. He would also like to purchase 3 additional Broll Tools. He has money available from the FOW approved funding in January for South Field expansion and trail care. A motion was made and seconded to use funding approved in January to purchase the Broll Tools and wheel barrow; the vote was unanimous to accept.

Discussion ensued on planning trail care activities for March 31<sup>st</sup>. Meet at the Visitor Center at 8:30 AM. Carl recommended we continue work on trail repair at South Pleasant Street toward NW5, including possible burying a culvert and redirecting the trail over the wet area in the corner at the end of the chain link.

Lars reported on the following :

- Visitor Center Walkway repair. We can have a small crew work on patching the walkway. Lars will purchase the supplies necessary, including bonding material and concrete. Carl noted that the red label Ready Mix has a bonding agent.
- REI Bridge Repair Grant (\$2,100). Lars will prepare a report for REI to document the work completed on 6 bridges in the park, including photos of work done. We discovered that sub-structure issues created stress on the meshing for some bridges and that other materials will have to be used. FOW has worked on 6 bridges, approximately 50 volunteers have been involved with the bridge work; time spent is approximately 6 – 8 hours work on each bridge. This has been a positive effort as we know that the safety of the bridges has immensely improved. Sandy will look into the bridge covering material he saw used in New Zealand and report back to the group.
- Lars will also send Dane information on FOW Trail Care for the REI calendar.

Summary of trail care activities planned for March 31<sup>st</sup>:

- Moving stone – NW5
- Culvert on NW5 trail
- Visitor Center walkway repair
- Trail brush back if we have a good number of volunteers
- Fill wet area on long stretch at NW4. Perhaps Steve G. gets the back hoe?

Future trail care projects:

- Rail trail work, including hiring State contractor to kill poison ivy
- C5 – C10 rerouting
- Fill railroad tracks at N12 and C7-C8 (prior to PMC Kids Ride) Need estimate for materials.

Mark your calendars: March 31<sup>st</sup> Trail Care Event 8:30 AM meet at Visitor Center

2012 Trail Care Dates

March 31 <sup>st</sup>	Saturday	
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Saturday	Park Serve Day
June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Saturday	National Trails Day
August 18 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	

Old Business

*Girl Scout Gold Award Candidate*

Mia Bornstein attended the meeting to report that her proposal for her Gold Award project is due April 23, 2012. She needs 80 hours of work and has a sponsorship form requiring Steve Gammon, Park Supervisor, to sign. Pam will forward Steve's contact information. Mia reported that she spoke with Alma about running routes in the Park and the Alma offered her support on this project as well. We are looking forward to following the progress on Mia's running route marking project.

New Business

*Scheduled Park Races*

Judy S. asked where people can find out when races are being held in the Park. She said that she has had people ask if this is posted anywhere as it can be disruptive for Park users. Suggestion was made to refer to the Wompatuck State Park website as all events will be posted online. Suggestion was also made to post a list of upcoming events on the kiosks in the Park to alert users of planned activities. Bill said we can post Landmine Race dates in the park prior to the race.

*Park Maps*

Lars asked if anyone knew how many new park maps are in inventory. We need to determine when we need to reorder. Steve G. will know how many maps we currently have in stock.

*REI Community Event April 28<sup>th</sup>, Hingham Location*

Lars reported that Dane contacted him to invite representatives from FOW to attend a Community Event on April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Hingham location. We can have a table with FOW information and maps – a great opportunity to get the word out about FOW. Jane volunteered to work a shift. If NEMBA is going to have a table, FOW could also share space with them.

*Wompatuck QR Code*

Sandy showed the group a QR code that has a link to maps used by AMC and some outdoor groups. He suggested we look into a QR code for Wompy. He also reminded us that it would be great to fix up the Gate House, including a welcome sign.

Important Dates

Trail Care	March 31 <sup>st</sup>
FOW Monthly Meeting:	April 16 <sup>th</sup> at 7 PM Visitor Center

**The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:03 PM.**

*Respectfully submitted by:*

*Pam Johnson,  
Secretary*