

Friends of Wompatuck
Meeting Minutes for May 19, 2008

Present: Bill B.(President), Alma M. (Secretary), Eric O. (Treasurer), Jim D., Sandy C. (Membership), Steve G. (Park Supervisor), Jim R. (Historian), Malcolm, Pam, Matthew M. (new summer Ranger), Vicki (webmaster), Robert, Carl, new member (didn't get his name, but am very happy he came.)

1) Opening Remarks

Bill B. (President) received an e-mail from Lars, one of our members, who has been involved in clearing some of the railroad track beds. He passed around a map that shows some of the railroad beds that Lars and his helpers have cleared. Steve C. (Vice President) can't be here this month, but hopes to attend next month.

2) Secretary's Report

Jim D. asked for an amendment to the Minutes be made. Last month, it was mentioned that there would be wood available from Craig's list for the group. However, it turned out to be bogus, so no wood is available.

3) Treasurer's report

Eric reported that three people have donated \$100 to the group. We have a large amount in our account, and our September race will take a large chunk of our income. Steve gave him a bill for the stone dust.

4) Membership report

Sandy said he hasn't counted our membership, but that we have 2 new members since the last meeting. He is trying to get renewals in place, and is waiting for FOW stickers (Eric has some), and is working on a membership card to send out to members. He plans to spend about \$45 on them, and has been given the go-ahead by those present to spend the necessary amounts. The website had pay pal removed, but we are looking for a cheaper alternative to it. Eric said it would make sense for Sandy to get the incoming e-mails of new members, and they will exchange e-mail information for that to happen.

5) Website report

Vicki reported that new photos will be put up onto the site. She would like members to send her some more photos at Vicki.schow@hotmail.com. Bill asked if she could see how many people are accessing the website, and she said she would look at the statistics. The site comes up on a Google search, so seems to be well used.

6) 501c3 application process

Eric reported that it would take at least until summer for us to hear about anything on our application.

7) Park Service Day

Eric reported that we had about 15 people, and projects included planting a tree, putting pavers by a kiosk, as well as planting some bushes and flowers. Steve said the DCR Director was here, and seemed to enjoy herself. He also nominated Jim D. as “Mr. Park Serve” because he showed up with a truckload of supplies for the day. Ames Nowell had 22 people for their Park Service Day, with the Abington cross country team coming out to help. Last fall the handrails at the boardwalk were replaced and, this year, they took out the old handrails. Projects included raking, picking up litter, and dragging brush. There is an ongoing problem with ATV’s in both parks, and the Environmental Police need to be notified when they are spotted. The number to reach them is on our kiosks.

8) FOW Swag (t-shirts, etc.)

Malcolm said he and Kyle have been having phone connection problems. He spoke to Kevin, from Bike Barn, to get his t-shirt format, which was sent via e-mail attachment. The logo will be our usual logo, small in front, large in back. Kevin will let us use the Bike Barn name to get a discount. We have to decide on quantity pricing, as orange and green are the agreed upon colors.

Members who join at the \$100 level will get a free t-shirt, orange will be used for work days and both colors will be sold. He has 200 shirts in mind, and we will have 100 of each color. The green will have white lettering. We will use the t-shirt material from last year's Landmine shirts. Children can fit into adult small, so those sizes will be included. Malcolm will work on pricing information, with finding out what are the minimums we need to have for each size, as well as what a minimum reorder amount would be for shirts.

If we estimate about \$3.50 for each shirt, then we will set a possible maximum of \$1500 for 300 shirts. Malcolm will see if we can order 200 and will try to get a good price for them that may be significantly less. If the amount changes, it will be brought to the Board for approval. Sizes will include 100 large and extra large, as well as 50 medium and 50 smalls to be divided among the colors.

9) Stone Dust

Jim D. reported that he was unable to get timbers from someone who had advertised it. He was also unable to get the stone dust that was advertised, since he didn't have any means of transporting it. Dirt can't be brought into the park unless it's certified by the State, as they check to make sure it's not contaminated or from an unreliable source.

10) Pow Wow

Jim R. sent an e-mail to the person who suggested the idea, but she still hasn't responded. Eric said there is one in Hingham and wondered if she was involved with that, but Jim wasn't sure. He may talk to a backup person to see if that works. Bill said a successful pow wow takes time to plan, so we need to make sure we get enough advance notice. He suggested that we wait until next year in order to make sure of this.

11) Old Business

Jim D. wondered if we had someone to volunteer their time to sit at the Visitor Center, but no one has volunteered. Bill suggested we put something on the list serve and ask if someone would like to volunteer a few hours. He also suggested putting a notice on the board, but Steve would prefer that we have a FOW member do it. Steve said we may

have some interest from someone who can't attend meetings, but might be able to donate some time.

Steve said the new brochure has been made, and is expected to make its debut soon. DCR will match funds to produce it.

Jim D. wanted to know why we are getting tools. Bill said that Steve C. was going to report on that, is in the process of getting them, and is not here to report on it. Jim said he sent him information on a tool box that is about 3 x 4 ft. and could be about 6 ft. long. Contractors put their tools in it, and leave it chained on site and sometimes it's put on the back of trucks. We could put tools into it, except for rakes and shovels. He's seen some on Craig's List varying in price from \$100-\$400. He said we also thought of putting the tools in the building that's by the front of the park, since it's locked. Steve said that this building has never been broken into, so we could put small tools into it, however, a muck truck would need to be kept in a more secure place. Jim noted that if we got a small truck that attaches to a muck truck, then the tools could be placed into that. Muck trucks could run about \$2400, but Steve C. is working on a grant for it. Jim also suggested having a container to store tools, as they're not too expensive. He thinks they will cost about \$200.

Carl reported on his walk with 24 women and Julie from Mother's Move. They did about 5 miles in a little over 2 hours, and donated \$100 to the FOW.

12) New Business

A member voiced her concerns about dirt bikes at South Field. Dirt bikes are not allowed in the park for any reason. There is a park neighbor who has a model airplane club so he has a permit; however, Steve has had to talk to him several times about the dirt bikes he lets his children bring, which are not allowed. He is also not allowed to stay overnight, as there is nothing that is needed to be protected. In addition, the people that come to the club are racing at high speeds through the park and are leaving gates open. Steve is considering revoking his permit.

South Field is a nice place to ride horses, but we need to identify the holes so they can be repaired before a horse falls. The holes at South Field "smoke" from methane because it is a stump dump, so these will be easy to spot. Bank gravel could be used to fill them, and Bill said we could help with that. Jim D. said it could be costly to get certified gravel, as well as spreaders. However, Steve said he could spread them and that the holes weren't very large. Jim D. suggested we use the National Guard, but Steve said they were

recruited on another project and wound up riding motorized vehicles through the woods, knocking down trees, so wouldn't be receiving another invitation to the park. Steve said we could set up a relationship with a state vendor to deliver gravel on a "as received basis", which would lessen the cost. This would make it happen on their timetable, but he said he wouldn't mind.

Jim R. said there was graffiti on a building, but Steve had someone with community service paint over it. There is banding from transformers in the park, and someone took metal left over from them and decorated trees with it.

Pam said some dangerous caches have been left in the park, but Steve said he has removed some of the high wire ones, among others. She said someone has been responsibly reporting some of these. He said he has to look for them, but has not been able to find all of them. Registered geocachers are the ones leaving them. Steve said that DCR hasn't adopted an official policy on geocaching. He doesn't have a problem with them, as long as they're not trampling wetlands. All he can do is keep an eye on the dangerous ones, since there is no DCR official policy. A free registration at the geocaching website (geocaching.com) allows users to search sites, with some located in the park.

13) Upcoming meeting dates

June 16 is our next meeting. July will be cancelled, with August 18th being our next meeting to prepare for the September Landmine Classic.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Submitted by,

Alma Ramos-McDermott

Secretary