

F O W
MINUTES OF MEETING

October 19, 2009

Present: Bill B. (President), Lars A. (Vice-President), Alma M. (Secretary), Carl C., Tyler Euston, Ed Lottero (Head of Wompatuck Education Program), Vicki Schow (webmistress), Mark Schow

Number Present: 8

1) Opening Remarks

Bill explained that many members were sick, so would be unable to attend.

2) Vice-President's Report (Lars)

Lars reported that there was an REI trail day on Oct. 4th, and a bridge was built in the Nature Study area. A sunken corner was lifted, a beam placed, and a stone foundation inserted.

3) Secretary's Report (Alma)

Last month's minutes were accepted.

4) Treasurer's Report (Jane was absent)

5) Membership Report (Sandy C. was absent)

Bill noted that Sandy has been working on updating our membership list, weeding out those who have not renewed. We have about 56 current members. Alma will only send e-mails to those who are current, paid-in-full members. Bill will work with Sandy to get her an updated list of the membership.

6) Webpage Report (Vicki)

Vicki noted that Steve G. sent her camping information to update on the site. In addition, the Landmine survey was posted. So far, 36 surveys have been received. The feedback mentioned timing problems. Many of those who responded were about 1 ½ hrs. away, which gives the race a "local" flair. Much of the feedback received was very positive. One of the riders commented that they thought our race was "up there" with the Vermont 50, which she and Mark consider to be a very good compliment.

7) Trails Report (Tyler)

Tyler noted that he thinks the trails look very good. He rode at Wompy last Thursday morning, and thought the ruts and standing water was not overly much, considering we'd had a race here. Bill agreed that you couldn't tell that people had been out in the woods.

8) Ed Lottero (Educational Program Volunteer)

Ed wanted to thank FOW for the \$500 that was donated for the Wompatuck Educational Program. Educational work is done around the state, and it began here at Wompatuck 4

years ago. Getting public schools to part with their money is very difficult, so our donation is much appreciated. They had built up to 800 students but, due to the economy, they nosedived last year. Thanks in part to our donation; they will be up to 500 students this year.

Most of their work is done with Weymouth schools, and one in Marshfield. The Weymouth Superintendent has been very supportive throughout the years, so some of the \$500 was used to defray the costs of bringing in Weymouth school buses. It costs around \$175 to bring a bus of about 50 students to Wompatuck. They were able to use our \$500 donation as a “carrot” to encourage other schools to participate and, as a result, students from Hull will be participating.

Bill suggested that he put in a request with us when their funding begins next year. He said he and his wife do not handle monies, and rely on the DCR for their funding. Bill suggested he take some photos and send it to him or to Vicki. Carl said he feels encouraged that he intuitively used the donation to encourage other schools, and he noted that Steve G. had told him we thought it would be best to use it for matching funds. He felt that \$325 should go to the Weymouth Schools because of their past support.

9) Wompatuck Mapping (Lars)

Lars received e-mails from someone who’d been biking here over the summer, and collected GPS info. He wanted to know if we’d be interested in these. Lars will contact him and let him know what work has already been done with GPS and Wompatuck.

Mark wondered if a “GPS trace loop” could be posted. We discussed how Steve G. doesn’t want this because of overuse, however, the trail won’t be marked, and it would just be downloadable. In addition, Bill said that he didn’t mind loops that would be posted on the website. In addition, these loops wouldn’t cause overuse because someone would have to actually “work” to download a map and need to have a GPS to find out where they’re going in the Park. Lars will look into the possibility of doing this for a future meeting. Mark and Vicki will talk to him about possible loops.

10) Pump Track

Steve C. was absent, but had Bill ask if some of the money from the Landmine Race could be used to construct a pump track. Mark wondered who would be the intended audience. Bill said that on Blue Hills Mountain Bike Day they had jumps from 1-4 ft. high, and someone took a header off one. Therefore, he said we need to make ours safe and not have gap jumps.

The pump track is about the size of a basketball court. A rider pumps and gets carried through the turns. Tyler said road access is important, along with a large clear area, a small grade, an area that will not have a water problem, and a lot of dirt. Mark wondered why the cost is so high, and Tyler said the bumps and turns have to be carefully laid out, a lot of dirt is needed, and it requires a lot of man hours. Bill said there is someone who does design work, designing one in Camden, Maine, who also has written a book about it. Tyler said he’s pretty sure that Steve C. already has this book.

Mark thought if we could get the word out, we could get the needed volunteers. Bill said the whole thing doesn't have to be built at once, but could be built in sections. Several possible locations were discussed. Bill thinks we could use some of our profits for this, but we will talk to Steve C. at the next meeting to get more information. Carl will find out some yardage pricing information.

11) November 8 Trail Day

Bill noted that Steve C. thought we could do some bridge work on this day so, if we get enough people, this may be a project on that day. Steve G. had mentioned that he'd like a bridge at NW10.

12) Anti slip protection for bridges?

Bill mentioned that roof shingles are used on bridges in a park where he had biked, and passed around photographs. However, both Mark and Tyler noted that it wouldn't last long, especially because it would retain water and would get a lot of use.

Mark went to Home Depot to see something called "Hardware Cloth," which is recommended by NEMBA. He said it was too wide and cutting it would be a problem because of the sharp edges. He noted that something called a "Diamond Plate Lathe" comes in 2 ft. widths. All that would need to be done to a bridge would be to get a thin strip ¼ inch railing on the edge and screw that in place, which would keep the edges from curling upwards. Carl worried that a dog might hurt itself on the edges, but Mark felt that it wouldn't be a problem, and that it would have a lot of traction. He will bring a test strip to a future meeting.

13) Friends Network Meeting

Bill noted that the meeting will be held in Worcester on Saturday the 24th. He will represent the FOW.

14) Bare Cove Monument Dedication

Jim was unable to attend, but wanted the FOW to know that the Monument Dedication will be held on Sunday, Oct. 25 at 1:00 pm in front of the Dock House. Refreshments will be served.

15) RTP Grant Spending

Steve C. applied for a RTP (Recreational Trails Program) grant for about \$7000, and it was approved. A Senator came up with the idea that gas tax for RV's, boats, trailers, etc. should be used in the RTP pot. Each state can decide to use the monies for various kinds of trails. A state committee is formed, of which Bill is a member, to decide who gets these monies.

We were able to get a muck truck, as well as bridging and logging materials. The railway project can be undertaken, but the Natural Heritage has to okay it. He believes that Steve C. will meet with Steve G. about this. Carl wondered if some of these monies could be used at Ames. Alma thought this might be an issue because the grant may not have

specifically mentioned Ames. Bill said he would table the conversation until both Steve C. and Steve G. could be at the meeting to comment on it.

16) New Business

- Carl will bring up a Landmine circuit course idea at a future meeting.

Future Meeting date

The next meeting is set for Monday, November 16th. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Submitted by,
Alma Ramos-McDermott
Secretary