

F O W
MINUTES OF MEETING

December 14, 2009

Present: Bill B. (President), Lars A. (Vice-President), Alma M. (Secretary), Jane G. (Treasurer), Vicki Schow (Webmistress), Steve Gammon (Park Supervisor), Mark Schow, Carl C., Tyler Euston

Number Present: 9

1) Opening Remarks

This is our last meeting for the year, and Bill thanked everyone for their work with FOW during the year.

2) Vice-President's Report (Lars)

Lars reported that there wasn't much to report. He will report later about the trails with Tyler.

3) Trails Work Report (October 14) (Tyler & Lars)

Tyler noted that he rode on the trails Thanksgiving morning and they were nice. Bill mentioned that the rerouted trail was done so seamlessly that it's very hard to tell where the old one was and where the new one begins. Lars noted that the area which was built up with rocks has withstood quite well. Bill mentioned that there was a roving crew from Bike Barn, and a lot of work was done.

4) Secretary's Report (Alma)

Last month's minutes were accepted.

5) Treasurer's Report (Jane)

Jane noted we have a balance of \$13,326.48. She reported that we began the year with \$8000, and we need to make sure there is a good cushion of money in the account for the Landmine race. Bill asked what she thought would be a good financial cushion. She will figure out how much was spent on the race (not including South Field) so that we would be able to keep about a \$7000 or \$8000 balance. Kevin, Bike Barn, donated the race t-shirts so anything we took in that day was profit.

Bill said we have a RTP grant (for \$8000) to buy a muck truck and construction supplies. If we didn't have any money in the treasury, we'd probably have to ask NEMBA for money but now we can pay for it ourselves and then get reimbursed by NEMBA if there's a "lag" from the state in our reimbursement. We applied for the grant almost 2 years ago, but it has taken the state almost a year to get the money out of the Dept. of Transportation. Now the DCR has the money and can reimburse us as soon as they get a bill from us.

Jane suggested we buy the truck now so we won't have to wait so long for reimbursement. She also thought that maybe we could get one on sale, but Bill said we're guaranteed a certain amount to spend for it. Everything is a "line item" amount instead of one large grant amount.

Carl was at a recent Ranger Meeting at Blue Hills, and they were requesting return of their muck truck. Steve G. said it has been returned to them.

Steve G. thanked FOW for their monetary input with the educational programs in the park. He feels it's a great idea for children to be introduced to the park at a young age so they can return later as users.

Jane reminded Steve G. about a bench that was supposed to be donated by the Andrews family. However, they changed their mind about using that money for the bench and want us to use the \$750 that they donated for something in the park and will donate the bench on their own. Jane said we should find a \$750 project in the park that we could let them know was how their donation was used.

6) Membership Report (Sandy C. was absent)

7) Webpage Report (Vicki)

Vicki noted that there was nothing new except for a new photo about the park's educational program that was e-mailed to her.

8) Report on the November "meeting"

The meeting had been cancelled. Several people showed up, and left without any discussion.

9) Anti-Slip Bridge Report (Mark)

Mark and Vicki bought a sheet of 8 ft. long, 30 inches wide metal lath but forgot the sample at home. Mark cut a couple of swatches out of it and put it in cups of salt and water to test for corrosion. So far, there hasn't been any corrosion. It is about \$1/foot and cost about \$9, and is like perforated sheet metal, which gives it depth. Mark said they picked up some strapping and figured it would be about \$8-\$10 for a length of it to be placed.

Steve G. would like to have it placed by cross country ski time to see how it holds up over the winter. Mark said his dog doesn't have a problem walking on it. He feels that just the railings holding it would be fine. The only damage was caused by accidentally kicking the edges several times with his toes, which caused a bit of "smudging." Tyler thought that cutting it to length would be the best way to place it.

Mark drew a diagram showing how it would be placed with a few washers holding the edges; however, Steve G. said a low, beveled threshold/flooring carpet type edging would be good to place on the edges. Mark asked if he and Vicki could buy some materials and get to work on a few bridges. They will front the money, and Jane will write them a

check. Steve G. wants them to do the long one by NW5. Lars noted that it's 134 feet and 34 inches wide. Mark felt that 2 people could get it done in about an hour.

10) RTP Grants and Projects (Tyler)

Tyler noted that Al Amaral helped them with horse bridge work, and has been e-mailing him some suggestions for bridge projects that would fall under the RTP grant. The bridge between N23 and N24 needs to be extended and made into a horse bridge because it links to the other section of trail which contains horse bridges. Another suggested location was between R8 and R3. Lars said that the current bridge is too narrow for horses, which requires horse riders to ride on the pavement. Bill wondered if the horses could walk on the dam area because it's so narrow, and that it didn't make sense to do a lot of work there if this is the case.

11) Nominations for 2010 Officers

These are the people who have been nominated for Officer Positions. If you would like to run for a position, please let us know. E-mails can be sent to the Secretary at: sunshinerunsfast@yahoo.com Elections will be held at the January meeting.

President: Bill Boles
Vice-President: Lars Ahlzen
Treasurer: Jane Goldberg
Secretary: Pam Johnson
Webmistress: Vicki Schow
Vice President for Trails: Tyler Euston
Membership: Sandy Cole
Race Director: Mark Schow

Alma will stay on as Secretary until the January meeting. If Pam is elected, she will step down after the elections and, figuratively, hand over the laptop to Pam who will take over the Secretarial duties at that point.

New Business

- Steve told us he's had someone at Ames Nowell opening gates and bathrooms, doing some patrolling and keeping some set hours. He's been told there will be a cut so he can't have any staff there next year. He knows there is a dedicated group of people who use the area, and would like to have some volunteer help for them to be able to continue to use the park.

Bill said that FOW consider themselves to be friends of Ames Nowell State Park and will assist in the formation of a Friends group there and will try to assist with future meetings there. Alma asked where is Ames Nowell Park. Bill said it's in Abington, and extends into Holbrook with a small portion in Weymouth.

- Steve received notification that all special use permits need to be applied for by May 1st. The park has become very popular for events, and DCR would like to

have all permits in place for the year. Mark will begin the process for the Landmine race.

Future Meeting date

The next meeting is set for Monday, January 25. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Submitted by,

Alma Ramos-McDermott
Secretary