



January 16, 2012

Minutes of Meeting

Present

Bill B. (President), Pam J. (Secretary), Jane G. (Treasurer), Sandy C. (Membership), Carl C. (VP Trails), Lars A. (VP), Steve G. (Park Supervisor), Peter Z. (FOW), Steve C. (FOW, NEMBA), Tom. V. (FOW)

Number present: 10

Meeting convened at 7:04 PM

Minutes are presented in Agenda order.

Opening Remarks and Introductions (President Bill Boles)

Bill welcomed everyone and all present introduced themselves.

VP Report (Lars)

Lars reported that the donation for the *Big Yellow Bus* project will be made on January 24, 2012. Lars will send an email with details on time and location for any FOW members who would like to attend. This \$750 donation provided bus transportation for Weymouth school students to visit Wompatuck – a huge success!

Lars asked Steve C. to talk about recent trail care and park care events as Steve was present. Steve talked about the great work that SE NEMBA has completed at Eaton's Pond and also talked about the new trail to be built to Buck Hill in the Blue Hills Reservation. DCR asked NEMBA to be involved in replacing the current trail to Buck Hill, and the Friends of Blue Hills will be working together with NEMBA to complete that work. It would be great if FOW could join this effort.

This Saturday, January 21st, there will be another work day at Eaton's Pond. Steve C. will email FOW with upcoming dates, times and locations of trail care events. Pam will send an email to the FOW membership.

Secretary's Report (Pam)

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

Treasurer's Report (Jane)

Jane reported that the current balance in the FOW account is \$26,998.40. Landmine netted \$9,671.88; there is still one invoice expected from Root 66 for approximately \$400-500.

Discussion ensued to address how much money can be budgeted for FOW funded park projects for the upcoming year. Jane completed a detailed analysis of cash flow requirements and noted that most of the expenses incurred are related to Landmine. These expenses are incurred PRIOR to the race. Discussion ensued regarding the risk of having to cancel the race due to weather and the possible financial loss if the race is cancelled. Question was raised regarding the possibility of "insuring" the event; Bill B. has not ever heard of this type of insurance. Steve G. suggested we establish a "rain date" and purchase a \$35 event permit for the rain date. All agreed that setting a rain date and purchasing a second permit is a good idea.

The discussion moved to Jane's analysis of the required minimum balance to maintain in the checking account in order to fund Landmine and ongoing expenses. \$10K should be kept in the checking account to cover those expenses; therefore approximately \$16K is available for budgeting park projects.

The group briefly discussed major projects that will require out-sourcing, including work on the Doane Street access road. Steve G. said this will be a multi-year project and we may be able to request matching funds from the state and we may be able to work with the Town of Cohasset for funding as this road is also access

to the Town water supply. Steve G. is waiting to hear from the Pembroke Conservation Commission for information on the raised board walk project that was completed on conservation land as this is most likely what would be proposed for Doane Street. We will work with the Cohasset Conservation Commission throughout the process.

Jane said that all financials are available to all members for review. Jane will be closing 2011 and will be setting up the 2012 financial reporting. Thank you, Jane, for a terrific and thorough analysis.

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

Membership (Sandy)

Sandy reported that there are currently 108 members in the FOW. Dues renewals are still slow. Sandy sends a new member welcome letter to all new members. Suggestion was made that we should mail a copy of the new FOW map to all members. Pam will determine postage requirements; Lars will print mailing labels. At the next FOW meeting the group will mail the map along with a renewal notice reminder to all members. A motion was made and seconded to accept the November Membership Report; the vote was unanimous to accept.

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

Vicki continues to maintain the FOW website from afar! Thanks so much! Happy New Year to the Schows!

Nomination of Officers (Bill. B – President)

Bill announced that nominations are open for all FOW officer positions. Bill asked if all officers present at the meeting would agree to be on the ballot for 2012. All officers present agreed to be on the ballot. Bill asked Pam to send an email to the FOW membership to announce the proposed slate of officers and to ask for nominations from the membership. Nominations can be sent to either Pam or Bill. Current nominations:

President: Bill Boles
Vice President: Lars Ahlzen
Treasurer: Jane Goldberg
Secretary: Pam Johnson
VP Trails: Carl Casale
Membership: Sandy Coles
Landmine: Tyler Eusden
Web Manager: Vicki Schow

RSVP and Insurance (Bill B.)

Bill described the organization RSVP – Response Service Vision People. Bill researched the possibility of purchasing insurance to cover FOW events through this group; he concluded that this was better suited for individuals purchasing coverage and NOT group coverage policies. FOW maintains two policies to cover FOW officers and volunteers – one through McKay insurance and the other through USACycling. Steve G. noted that the state clearly indicates that people use the park at their own risk.

Adopt-A-Trail (Tyler – will report next meeting.)

We will look forward to Tyler's report at the February meeting.

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

Carl, Steve G. and Jeff (District Manager) walked South Field to assess expansion plan. As you face the stage, plans are to clear the area to the RIGHT of the stage and to reclaim approximately ¾ acre. The work required will be to cut, drag and burn the brush and briars in the swath. A "brush hog" will be best suited for the clearing work. The field also needs crushed stone, bank gravel and crusher run to complete the field

maintenance. Inserted note from later discussion: there may be state-owned equipment that we can use to cut the brush. Steve G. will research. Steve G. estimated that the budget for the job is approximately \$4K (including renting a brush hog).

A motion was made and seconded to fund \$4K to allow Steve G. and Carl to complete the South Field expansion project; there was no additional discussion offered; the vote was unanimous to accept.

IMBA Membership (Carl)

Carl received notice of IMBA renewal; he will forward to Jane for renewal in May 2012.

Spending FOW \$ on Wompatuck – Idea Session

Steve G. received an estimate to repair the front walkway of the Visitor Center. The estimate was very costly (approximately \$7,400). Discussion ensued on options, including how to patch the walkway or completely repaving the walkway and sidewalk. At this time we agreed to look at the possibility of patching the walkway.

Steve G. received an estimate to replace the boulders on the paved path at the “Orchard” and replace the boulders with ballards (as discussed in the November meeting.). The cost for the entire job is \$1,000. A motion was made and seconded to fund \$1K to replace the boulders with ballards; there was no additional discussion offered; the vote was unanimous to accept.

Steve G. received estimates to replace the chain link fencing at the Mt. Blue, South Pleasant and Doane Street entrances. Quotes included the option of either chain link fencing or wood guard rails. The price per entrance with the chain link is approximately \$3K; the wooden guard rail option is \$2K per entrance. The group agreed that the aesthetic of the wood guard rail is better suited for the Park and offers a more welcoming appearance. The group also agreed that we could do one entrance and evaluate the option for the remaining two entrances following the installation of the first. All agreed to this plan and recommendation was made to work on the Mt. Blue entrance first. A motion was made and seconded to fund \$2K to complete the Mt. Blue entrance project; there was no additional discussion offered; the vote was unanimous to accept.

Steve G. reported that there are currently no plans in the State to fund demolition projects. FOW can assess what we can do to work on the appearance of the Gate House at the entrance to the park. We could add an overhang; cover the door; add plantings; add window boxes; paint the Gate House. These are all projects FOW could work on. The group agreed to look at the Gate House to determine plans for sprucing up the place.

Old Business

There was no Old Business to discuss.

New Business

Kids Pan Mass Challenge

Lisa Patterson is looking forward to a sunny day for the PMC Kids Ride, which will be held on June 10, 2012 from 9 – 12 noon. FOW is very excited about this event – the energy and excitement from the kids and their families is terrific! Carl is planning to set up a “Safety Tent” to check helmets; Steve G. suggested we also check tire pressure. FOW should also work on rail trail maintenance prior to the PMC event; of note was patching the exposed rail road tracks.

Trail Work Plans

Steve C. would like to be sure we continue to work on reclaiming rail trails in Wompy. This work can be scheduled for Trail Care events.

Important Dates

January 21, 2012 – Trail Care Event Eaton’s Pond with NEMBA

February 20, 2012 – Monthly Meeting for Election of FOW Officers

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:04 PM with everyone happy to have launched the New Year by funding several projects to improve Wompatuck!

Respectfully submitted by:

Pam Johnson, Secretary