



November 15, 2010

Minutes of Meeting

Present

Bill B. (President), Lars A. (Vice President), Steve G. (Park Supervisor), Pam J. (Secretary), Tyler E. (VP for Trails), Sandy C. (Membership), Carl C. (FOW), Wayne S. (FOW), T.J. (FOW and Guest), Mark S. (Landmine), Elli S. (FOW), Liam P. (FOW)

Number present: 12

Meeting convened at 7:05 PM

Minutes are presented in Agenda order.

Opening Remarks and Introductions

President Bill Boles introduced himself and asked for other introductions. With chilly indoor temperatures, Bill quickly started the meeting.

VP Report (Lars)

Lars remarked about the great turnout for the Trail Care event on the 13th. REI donated some great stuff and everyone received a reusable REI bag. Lars said he would address other topics in agenda order.

Secretary's Report (Pam)

Pam reported an addition to the minutes. Bill noted that the FOW had also voted unanimously to gift a corporate membership to BikeBarn as well as to REI. The group recommended that the Simms Brothers also receive an honorary corporate membership. A motion was made and seconded to grant the Simms Brothers a complimentary FOW corporate membership; the vote was unanimous to accept.

Pam shared a draft letter to thank corporate sponsors and to inform them that they have been given honorary corporate memberships. The group agreed that a framed FOW membership certificate or plaque would be an appropriate gesture. A motion was made and seconded to provide an FOW membership plaque to honorary corporate sponsors; the vote was unanimous to accept.

Pam will finalize the letter and prepare a draft certificate for review by the group. The letter will be forwarded to Bill for his signature.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the amended October Secretary's Report; the vote was unanimous to accept.

Treasurer's Report (Bill reporting for Jane)

Bill reported the current balance in the account is \$18,692.05 according to Jane's records. The Treasurer's Report was distributed to the members present. Bill asked Pam to forward an Annual Report filing notice to Jane.

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

Membership (Sandy)

We have 95 memberships on record. 36 have not renewed their dues. Sandy sent an email to those members who need to renew and will follow with regular mail if there is no response. There have been several emails that have “bounced” and Sandy will share those addresses with Pam.

Bill mentioned that he had recently attended the Friends of Blue Hills (FOBH) annual meeting. It was a pleasant affair with many “old” friends in attendance. FOBH now has a few hundred members! Bill recommended that the FOW plan a future annual meeting now that our ranks are growing. All agreed that an Annual FOW meeting would be a fun event to plan.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the October Membership Report; the vote was unanimous to accept.

Webpage Report (Vicki)

We will look forward to Vicki’s report at the next meeting!

Pratt Memorial Bench at Ames Nowell (Bill B.)

Bill reported that the bench is in place and the work is complete.

Wompatuck Shed Progress (Sandy C.)

Sandy reported that the shed is finished and has been coated with a solid stain in a shade called “Picnic Table Brown”. The FOW shed is home to the muck truck and assorted tools for FOW use.

Trails Report (Tyler)

Tyler reported that we had a VERY successful Trail Care Day on November 13th. We completed three huge projects: (1) culvert; (2) new bridge built; and (3) new trail cut. The new bridge and trail will keep all riders and walkers off the main road. Steve G. said he had to extend the bridge beyond a spring. Steve will watch the water flow and assess whether or not a culvert is needed. Turn out for the event was terrific. Trail Care flyers had been posted in town and throughout the park and REI had listed our event in their Monthly Calendar of activities.

Tyler reported that there is still work to be done on the new trail, including more bench cuts. Tyler will be available next Saturday, November 20th for a “mini” Trail Care Event. He will confirm with Pam and Pam will send notice to the FOW membership.

Steve reported that Nick (Eagle Scout Candidate) will be working on the retention wall before the ground freezes. He will also be working on about 400’ of boardwalk between S20 and S19.

Tyler noted that future Trail Care projects include: E5-E7 trail cleanup; N26 to NS2 clean up (per Steve C.); and Wayne noted that the culverts near Heron Pond need clean up.

Tyler would like to “stock the shed” with tools and will create a list of suggested items that we should have available. Steve G. suggested a gas can, oil and a small mechanic tool set to keep the muck truck running. Tyler suggested a “Pulaski” tool and wheelbarrows.

Discussion ensued about “branding” bridges with the FOW logo. Carl and Bill B. will research branding irons and will report back to the group.

Trails Report (Tyler) – Continued

Tyler and Steve G. have noted that there have been some unsafe trail modifications made by unauthorized people. Some people have been building “double diamond” trails in the “playground”. We cannot have any jumps in the park. Steve will continue to dismantle any unsafe trail modifications he finds. Lars also noted that there have been modifications made to the Pine Run trail.

The “Rail Trail” project connecting Wompatuck with the Cohasset Commuter rail station has not been “sold” yet. Work continues to try to get the funding to complete that connector. Note was made that people were spotted sitting on top of the open roofing structures and it is an extremely dangerous hazard in the park.

Adopt-A-Trail (Tyler.)

Tyler shared an FOW Adopt-A-Trail program description which Bill B. read to the group. Recommendation was made to require Trail Adopters to get APPROVAL for significant changes or improvements to trails BEFORE attempting work. All agreed. Approval must come from Steve G. as the DCR representative and Park Supervisor.

Bill suggested we take a look at the Blue Hills program which is very successful. When people take “ownership” of a trail they get very enthusiastic! A person or group can adopt a section of trail. Bill suggested that if the “adopter” maintains their trail for one year, they should be recognized in some way for their stewardship. This is also a great project for high school students and scouts.

Discussion ensued on how to start the program. All agreed that we will start with an “internal” pilot of the program. Tyler has set up a Yahoo group: adoptatrailwompatuck@yahoo.com

A person/group interested in adopting a section of trail should send an email request to the Yahoo group for availability (Tyler) and approval (Steve G.) The park map should be posted on line identifying trails that have been “adopted” and suggested trails that could really use some help. The Guidelines will be posted on the FOW website and also on the Yahoo group site. Guidelines are included with the minutes for this meeting for member reference.

Landmine Classic (Mark)

Mark has secured BART racing to be the timing officials for Landmine 2011. Mark will be attending an upcoming race to observe how BART handles the organization. BART suggested we have 6 volunteers at the finish. Suggestion was also made to have hay bales used to build a finish line chute. Vicki has started a binder to organize all Landmine race-related information that can be shared with future Race Directors, although Mark and Vicki have no plans at the moment to relinquish their most critical roles.

Old Business

Dogs on Doane Street, aka, “Dog Poop Alley”

Steve G. will be speaking with the Town of Cohasset Water Department and Dog Officer to address the continuing problem of dog owner’s not cleaning up after their dogs on Doane Street. Carl mentioned that “Duty Calls” has posters available to remind people that their dogs are contaminating the water supply. He will send the link.

Old Business - Continued

How to Spend FOW Money

The following suggestions will be addressed: park benches, metal maps on kiosk boards throughout the park, and tools.

New Business

FOW Elections

Bill B. reminded the group that we will have Officer nominations at the December FOW meeting with elections in January 2011. Bill reminded all current officers that if they cannot continue on next year's slate to please recommend a replacement.

Possible MA DCR Park Closures

Bill shared news that the DCR may have to consider closing up to 25 parks in 2011 due to economic constraints in the state. There may be public hearings to discuss which parks should be closed. It will be very important for the FOW members to be ready to support and be present and to be sure we voice our opinion to keep Wompatuck open. Bill will keep us informed.

Abigail Adams Middle School

T.J. Bonner, 5th Grade Teacher, attended the FOW meeting to thank the group for the \$500 donation to provide transportation for students to visit Wompatuck State Park. In a letter from Principal Daniel Birolini: "Because of your donation, the cost of our field trip for each student was only fifty cents! Between October 8th and 25th approximately 600 fifth and sixth grade students attended a field trip to Wompatuck State Park hosted by Pam and Ed Lottero from Parksproject.org. Students were taken on a one mile guided hike through the nature study area. During the hike, students were given the opportunity to activate their "Naturalists Brain". They explored organisms and vegetations that Wompatuck houses. At the conclusion of the hike, the students were brought to Mt. Blue Spring for a taste of the refreshing spring water. Your continued support of the students of Weymouth is greatly appreciated." T.J. also brought thank you cards that the kids made for the FOW – these cards are really terrific and very creative! Looks like the Burbank Boulder is a favorite! Test your Wompy knowledge – do YOU know where the Burbank Boulder is?

Next Meeting Date

December 20, 2010 at 7 PM, Wompatuck Visitor Center.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Pam Johnson

FOW Secretary

Attachment: Friends of Wompatuck Adopt-A-Trail Program

FRIENDS OF WOMPATUCK

ADOPT-A-TRAIL PROGRAM

The Friends of Wompatuck (FOW), with the blessing of the Department of Recreation (DCR), has instituted an Adopt-A-Trail program for Wompatuck State Park. Willing volunteers can adopt a trail or series of trails under this program and perform routine maintenance. The goal of this program is to allow volunteers to take a sense of ownership for their trail(s) and lend a closer eye to potential trail maintenance issues.

Guideline for Adopters

Trail adopters should utilize the guidelines below for maintaining their trail(s):

- Clear tree debris (limbs, branches, etc.) from the trail bed
- Clear minor drainages to prevent standing water in the trail bed
- Note larger downed trees and report to DCR for chainsaw clearing
- Note potential problem areas (bridges in need of repair, perpetually wet areas, braiding trails, etc.) and report to DCR and FOW for consideration on scheduled trail maintenance days
- Brush back briars/thorns/branches that could poke trail users who are traveling within the trail bed

Trail adopters **SHOULD NOT**:

- Cut new trail(s) or re-route existing trail(s) without **APPROVAL** from DCR
- Build man-made structures (bridges, etc.) with **APPROVAL** from DCR
- Widen trail corridors beyond their existing breadth

Resources for Adopters

Trail adopters should pass through their section of trail several times per year in order to perform basic maintenance as described above. Discussion of more extensive projects, communication between adopters, and other topics related to the Adopt-A-Trail program at Wompatuck can be routed through the Yahoo group:

adoptatrailwompatuck@yahoo.com