

WONALANCET OUTDOOR CLUB NEWSLETTER
Minutes of WODC Annual Meeting, 1988

The 89th Annual Meeting of the Wonalancet Out Door Club was called to order by President William Read at 7:45 pm on August 20, 1988, at the Wonalancet Chapel. Eighteen members were present.

Minutes of the 1987 annual meeting were read and approved.

President Read read the Treasurer's Report, a copy of which is appended hereto.

George Zink referred to increased Forest Liaison costs due to WODC responses to the proposed Sandwich Range Wilderness Plan.

The Treasurer's Report was moved, seconded and approved.

Dana Steele, Trails Chairman, reported that about a dozen persons participated in Trail Day in which they worked on the Kelley Trail to Square Ledge to Passaconaway Cut-Off to Dicey's Mill. A Trail Day scheduled for 8/27/88 was canceled.

Nat Scrimshaw described the trail work WODC had hired him to do. This was (Forest Service designation) level 2 work, ditching, water bars, etc., compared to level 1 of clipping and ditch clearing. Nine water bars (a total of 82 feet) were emplaced on Big Rock Cave Trail (due to erosion problems) and, ditches and side diversions were dug along the trail. The costs were contained within the allocated \$1000 by using a man hour rate rather than charging the per foot piece rate. There was time still available for code-a-site work.

Many of the ditches on Dicey's Mill Trail were blocked, requiring cleaning. Nat urged WODC to clear water bars as a part of regular trail maintenance.

Nat indicated that matching Forest Service Grant Monies received by the Sandwich Range Conservation Association will be applied to work on WODC trails in the summer of '89.

In response to a question about the proximity of logging to the Big Rock Cave Trail, George Zink said that a blow down had affected that area initially and that it had been reforested with pine, with WODC agreeing to keep down overgrowth for 10 years. George mentioned, also, that the Forest Service has become more conscious of scenic impacts of clearcutting and strives to cut along contours.

[See report on Sandwich Range Wilderness Management Plan and Flat Mountain Pond following the conclusion of WODC minutes]

NEW BUSINESS

The 1988-1989 proposed budget was presented.

Dana Steele moved to increase the trails item from \$100 to \$1000. The motion passed unanimously.

Ian Cooke moved to increase Forest Liaison from \$110 to \$300. The motion passed unanimously.

Sally noted that the cost of the new trail map was not included in the budget. George noted the Club expects to recoup some of the anticipated \$1500 costs through sales and a loan or gift from the Tamworth Foundation.

John Chandler moved that the executive committee pursue the completion of the new 3 color trail map of the Sandwich Range, incurring costs at the discretion of the executive committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Ian Cooke suggested the need for a public telephone for hikers in the Ferncroft area. The matter was referred to the executive committee.

Martha Chandler commented on the success of WODC lectures this summer

John Chandler moved that the executive committee solicit by letter organizations and camps using trails maintained by WODC to make a contribution of at least \$25 explaining the costs of trail maintenance. The motion was passed unanimously.

A discussion of raising revenues led to a recommendation that the executive committee examine the possibility of additional membership categories (Trail, Life, etc.) The by-laws would require changing. The executive committee will report on this matter at the next annual meeting.

Karl Behr reported for the Nominating Committee that there is a reluctance by members to accept the presidency of the club. It was agreed that this is related to the small size of the club.

It was moved to accept the same slate of officers for 1988-89. The slate was accepted unanimously. The following are the officers:

President	Bill Read
Vice President	John Mersfelder
Secretary	Barbara Sidley
Treasurer	Nat Steele
Trails Chairman	Dana Steele
Newsletter	Sally Zink
Forest Liaison	George Zink
Membership	Martha Chandler

It was reported that five members of WODC have walked the Blueberry Ledge Trail since last year.

Sally Zink asked if two newsletters will be sent out next year. The consensus was that there should be two.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John Mersfelder
Secretary, Pro Tem

Sandwich Range Wilderness Management Plan: Although the Final Plan has not been released (January 28), the Draft Final Plan is available, and no further changes are expected.

Comments on the original Plan were submitted to WMNF on behalf of WODC. It is gratifying to discover that most of the recommendations made are incorporated in the Draft Final Plan. Specific decisions of interest to WODC members:

- a. Heermance and Rich shelters will remain during the next 10 years, unless there is evidence of degradation of the areas due to shelter use.
- b. Shehadi shelter will be removed as soon as convenient. This shelter has not been maintained by WODC for several years. There is no water supply, and no toilet facility.
- c. The wooden "steps" on the ledges of Blueberry Ledge Trail will remain.
- d. The Pond (Lost Pass to Flat Mt. Pond) and Woodbury (Lost Pass to Mt. Whiteface) trails will be open for winter use, and maintained at a primitive level.
- e. Cooperators (e.g. WODC) will continue to maintain signs within wilderness. Signs will be of "natural wood" (unpainted), will contain the WODC logo, but no mileage.
- f. Study will be made of the feasibility of a trail connecting Sandwich Mt. to the slide on South Tripyramid.
- g. Trail rights-of-way will be negotiated where and when possible for Bennett Street, Flat Mt. Pond, McCrillis, Blueberry Ledge, Dicey's Mill, Wonalancet Range, Cabin, Big Rock Cave, and Bickford Trails. See later section.
- h. Maintain Flat Mt. Pond dam.
- i. Seek non-motorized methods of stocking Flat Mt. Pond with brook trout.
- i. A decision to construct a trail to Flat Mt. Pond for motorized access by the handicapped was remanded (postponed) to another plan. See next section.

Response to the original Plan by WODC members and friends was gratifying. Of the 45 letters received by WMNF, 38 were from Club members and friends. Thanks go to the following for taking time from their busy lives to write letters to the Forest Service:

Wm. Rogers Ellis	George Bates	John Mersfelder
Dorothy LaPointe	Hilda Stuntz	WODC
Louis Flaccus	Charles Penrose	J & M Chandler
Ed Flaccus	Donald Hight	B.J. Semmes
Michael Purves	Fred Steele	Conservation &
Ted Sidley	Andy Thompson	Research Found.
Doug McVicar	Helen Steele	(Dick Goodwin)
Chester Lucy	Joseph Feely	Raphaelle Semmes
Chocorua Lake Cons.	D & S Kelette	Jeff Zink
Foundation (Smith)	Ralph Weymouth	Jonathan Cawley
Percy Olton	Claude Wintner	Sandwich Conserv.
Jane Beckman	Alexander Lincoln	Commission
Shirley Lyons	Peter Reilly	Nat Scrimshaw
NH Audubon	Ian Cooke	Jocelyn Gutches
		David Bowles

Flat Mountain Pond: A decision with respect to motorized access on the trail leading to Flat Mountain Pond (FMP) was not made during the Sandwich Range Wilderness management planning process, although the Forest Service was urged to do so by most respondents. WMNF "remanded the decision to 'Other Plans.'" That there was political activity behind the scenes is clear from the time of release of a "scoping letter" issued on June 14, 1988. Public comment on the Sandwich Range Wilderness Management Plan was due on June 17th!

WODC responded to the "scoping letter", and, in addition, worked with several national and state environmental organizations. It was argued that the Forest Service was in violation of the Forest Planning Process by not identifying the issue of handicapped access by ORV's to remote ponds in the **Forest Plan**, and by failing to follow the **Integrated Resource Management** procedure. WMNF was urged to make a full study of all forest resources, everywhere on the WMNF, and their accessibility to handicapped people.

On November 22, 1988 WMNF announced that "...the Forest Service has expanded the scope of the environmental analysis of handicapped access to Flat Mountain Pond to include other areas on the White Mountain National Forest". This action is consistent with the recommendations made by WODC.

Although the information has not been released by WMNF, estimated construction costs of the proposed ORV trail to Flat Mountain Pond are \$300,000.

Excellent letters relative to the issue appeared in local newspapers and in letters to the Forest Service written by Rudy Mutter, Camilla Coolidge, Annette Ransom, the Sandwich Conservation Commission, Denny and Sally Kalette, W. Rogers Ellis, and others. Again, thank you.

Should you have comments on the issue or on the decision, mail them to
Robert M. Walker, District Ranger
Saco Ranger District, WMNF
Conway, NH 03818

Notes: WODC members Rudy and Tish Mutter, and George P. Bates, have been working with the Land Preservation Investment Program, the Sandwich Conservation Commission and the White Mountain National Forest to grant rights-of-way for hiking trails on their properties. The Gleason and Bennett Street trails are on the Mutter property; the McCrillis and Flat Mt. Pond trails are on the Bates property. We are indebted to them for their initiatives on behalf of the hiking public. Both families are WODC members. How can we express appreciation for their generosity?

Prepared by George Zink

Trails Chairman Dana Steele reports a conversation with Mike Bromberg who volunteered to make the new map for WODC. By late Winter or early Spring, Mike will have a first draft which he will submit for last minute changes

Nat Steele has talked with representatives of New England Telephone Company concerning the possibility of a pay telephone for hikers' use as they depart the WMNF in Wonalancet. The company could install a pay telephone in a structure (built by the Club) for a charge of \$91. A year's bill would be between \$439 and \$534. It would be slightly cheaper if the Club owned its phone, but there would still be the installation charge and monthly rates.

Feb 1989

WODC Treasurers Report 1987/88 as of 8/29/88

	Expenses	Income	
Trails	500.00		(1/2 payment to Nat Scrimshaw)
Mailings	209.76		
Dues		1011.89	
Forest Liason	111.92		
Tee Shirts	181.50	120.00	
Interest		546.41	
Donations	165.00		
Squirrel Bridge	500.00	50.00	
Maps		7.05	
Other		5.07	

Totals	1668.18	1740.42	

8/8/87	6674.73
+ Income	+1740.42
- Expenses	-1668.18

8/20/88	6746.97

WODC 1988-1989
Budget

SPNHF	35.00
Wonalancet Corporation	20.00
New England Trails Conference	10.00
New England Natural Reserves Forum	10.00
Mailing	220.00
Forest Liaison	300.00
Trails	<u>1000.00</u>
	1540.00

DUES NOTICE
Dues are: \$15.00 - Family, \$8.00 - Individual
Please send dues to:
Nat Steele
Wonalancet, NH 03897
---Your dues have been paid for the 88-89 year. Thank you.
---You owe dues for the 88-89 year.

Sally Zink, Newsletter Editor