

## Friends of Goodwin Forrest

January 8, 2019

Present: B. Marshall, J. Powell, B. Nickels, S. Broderick, L. Warren, L. Kochiss, B. Johnson, G. Newcombe, S. Jimenez, J. Giana, L. Ives, E. Hammerling, B. Bernard, S. Crawford, J. Parda, E. Logee-Savoie

The meeting opened at 1:05. Minutes of November 13, 2018 unanimously approved.

Treasurer report: Bill presented two separate pieces to the budget. The first is the 2018 year end which he noted ended on a positive position. He also noted that some expenses would be carried over into the 2019 budget. Bill then reviewed the 2019 proposed budget noting that the income levels have increased largely due to the Master Naturalist Programming and the logging programs. He also made note that the CFPA will be administering a 5% fee of total income (other than the dual membership), which is a corrected administrative fee from past years. He commented on the domain fee for the website, which is due every 2 years and is due this year as well as an increase in equipment maintenance. He emphasized we really should be looking at the budget as a 2 year program. Budget was unanimously approved.

Membership: Jim read a memo from L. Bourque that membership is up and stands at 212 members.

Social media/marketing: Lynn reported that marketing is going great. The Facebook page is doing well and reminded all to share pages. She reported that people are indeed using the website and Facebook.

CFPA news and updates: Eric reported that 2018 was a fantastic year for all of us ending on a positive note with the passing of the amendment to the constitution. He reported that 2019 has some big issues regarding policy. We have a new commissioner K. Dykes. Eric sat as a co-chair of the Environment Policy Committee, which served to give advice to the newly elected governor, and felt this was positive. He noted that 2019 will be challenging with staffing changes at the Legislature and at DEEP, as well as in future years since DEEP anticipates losing up to 40% of its' remaining staff to retirements over the next 4 years. He encouraged us to invite the new commissioner out to Goodwin if we have something exciting happening to engage her. He reported the top priority is protecting the funding for the Passport to Parks program. He is advocating for bonding for the recreational trails and greenways grants. Lastly, he discussed the new administrative charge of 5% which applies to all revenues except dual membership (unless it is over \$55) between Goodwin and CFPA, and noted that although the 5% administrative fee appears to be new, it is based upon the language in the 2016 agreement between CFPA and the FGF, and it probably should have been

applied over the past two years. (CFPA has no intention of applying the administrative fee retroactively)

DEEP news: Beth reported for Matt that quotes are continuing for the new toilet facilities. The bridge on the red trail is getting fixed.

Director's report: Beth started by saying thank you to all for the funding for the Naturalist programs and the after school bus. She is continuing involvement with the Windham school district and looking at programming improvements regarding ADA issues, heat for the museum, and how to expand the Master Naturalist programs while also preserving the Goodwin name. Beth reported that CFPA is looking for programs for trails day weekend and she hopes Goodwin will have 3-4 to offer. She noted the deadline for listing programs in the booklet is 3/15/19. Beth shared results from a recent survey she and Lena did regarding programming at Goodwin. Discussion ensued regarding the structural demise of the center and how to get repairs completed and have Goodwin moved up the list.

Educational /program report: Lena noted that the number attendees of programs have decreased since 2015. She is investigating as to why and looking into ways to improve this. A couple reasons mentioned included weather based cancellations and the staff transition between Jasper and Lena. Discussion ensued. Lena is asking for creative ways to produce different programs and volunteers to run them.

Trails report: Emily read Bob's trails committee report. Trail maintenance has been limited to removing wind fallen trees. Activity on the orange trail is on hold until ok given regarding the harvest. The new trail map is on hold. They are still waiting to hear from Matt regarding the Ventrac riding mower and also waiting for Matt to find time to use DEEP tractor to create draining of specific areas so crushed stone can be added. The horse Camp at Natchaug is closed for 2019.

Garden report: Lynn noted the gardens are asleep.

Other: Jim reported on the Goodwin Trail Challenge. A proposal was made and all approved to accept the proposal for the Trail Challenge with a certificate of completion.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05. **Next meeting March 12, 2019 at 1pm.** Respectfully submitted by Emily Logee-Savoie