

Friends of Goodwin Forest

Meeting Minutes of July 11, 2023 in person and on Zoom

Present: in person: President Jim Giana, Treasurer Bruce Spaman, Recording Secretary Linda Wenner, Beth Bernard, Bill Marshall, Matthew Quinn, Adam Drouin, Lynne Warren and on zoom, Sue Hudd.

The meeting was called to order by Jim at 6:06 PM. The minutes of May 9, 2023 were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce reported that the Trail Run income totals of our accounting versus CFPA's accounting were different by about \$1,100 in income. Sponsor and t-shirt money may have gone into the wrong account. Bruce will ask for a meeting with CFPA and Beth so they can clear that up. Also dues are down about \$870. Half-year numbers: Income \$14,878 and Expense \$11,516. Motion to accept by Lynne, seconded by Bill, so approved.

Membership Report: Jim said we have 18 renewals for 105 Friends only members and 137 dual members for 242 total. Motion to accept by Bruce, seconded by Bill, so approved.

Social Media: Lynne said she is using Benchmark, a new email program. We have 160 addresses and half were opened, some bounced but weren't our fault. Top pages are 1. Landing, 2. Blog on Monarchs, 3. Gardens, 4. Tick Sense, 5. Current Programs, 6. Blog and 7. Trail Run. People want to learn stuff! Motion to accept by Bill, seconded by Bruce, so moved.

Trail Run: Bill reported it went great with favorable responses from runners, great volunteer participation and Chaplin, Hampton and Eastford businesses supported as well. We have 240 runners (max is 250) from 7 states: CT, RI, MA, NH, PA, OH and NY. \$4,600 income. A positive is that it introduced the runners to Goodwin. Next year is the 10th anniversary – June 2, 2024. Bruce would like for there to be an option for runners to join FOG as a member. Bill pointed out that \$615 in additional donations from the runners was received. Motion to accept by Lynne, seconded by Bruce, so moved.

Garden Report: Lynne reported that the first stage of the Children's Discovery Trail is almost done. Invasive trimming and collecting seeds with the thought of possible sales has been done. Jumping worms have been collected, but they will kill anything up to six inches deep and plants and trees can't regenerate. Motion to accept by Bruce, seconded by Bill, so moved.

CFPA: Beth said that possibly a search firm will be hired to find a new Executive Director with the goal being a hire by mid-fall.

Director's Report: Beth said renewal of the Goodwin PSA is ongoing, with DEEP management of education programs at Goodwin. Game Night July 28th – see CFPA web site for info. DEEP intern to develop field guides for students. Mental health benefits of the Forest. Naturalist class is going well and next program is Land Manager with registration soon. Thanks to Lynne and Sue for the garden and Bill for trails. Motion to accept by Lynne, seconded by Bill, so moved.

DEEP News: Matt said he had a Dam update and the contractor will reseed the Dam in September so there will be some trail closures. A second seasonal maintainer, Matao, has been hired to work with Jerry. Bi-weekly cleaning and quarterly floor treatment is supposed to start soon. Some trail work has been started, and he needs to coordinate with Gabe. Trees taken down, string trimming on blue trail and

Black Spruce Pond. Mowing has started with a schedule. Bruce asked about a plan for the cleared area and Matt said they will try to do the excavation this winter. Lynne would like it to be meadow. Matt questioned the invasives problem with that. Bruce asked about portable radios for use during the trail run. Cell service is spotty but Matt thought FSR would work. Bruce would want to put them at each aid station. Cost would be a 4 pack for about \$100. Lynne reminded us of Prime Day tomorrow. (The aid station at Kingsbury Road should be moved to into the area with the chimney for better cell service.) Linda offered to loan her set of radios to try out before deciding if we want to purchase some. Motion to accept by Lynne, seconded by Bill, so moved.

Education Report: Adam said August programs are all set but still need to do PR. Origami program in September. Also a wildlife program, Entomology by Pam. He may need coverage for one or two hikes for Walktober as he will be away. A Homeschooling Program with 2 moms and 8 kids turned into a bigger group. They are worm collectors and enjoy the Discovery Trail. Motion to accept by Bruce, seconded by Bill, so moved.

Physical Plant: Matt is looking into finishing the siding replacement. The cement/wood mix is supposed to last 25 years. Roof and gutters to follow once siding is done.

Trails: Linda read Gabe's report. There is ongoing mowing and brush cutting on all trails. Special thanks to Linda, Dale May, and Bruce for continuing the mowing effort this year. Stan Crawford and Gabe are using brush cutters to trim back vines to keep the trails open and to reduce encounters with briars. Thanks to Glen Newcombe and Stacy at DEEP for cutting back the Orange trail and surrounding trails near Station Road in late June and early July. General trails cleanup was done in the weeks leading up to the 10k/30k Trail Run/Trails Day Weekend 2023. Thanks to Stan and Susan Crawford, Matt Quinn and Stacy at DEEP, Bruce Spaman, Glen Newcombe, Bill Marshall and anyone else who took part in this work. Many fellow Trail Runners have complimented the work that FOG does on these trails. Foot bridges on the western side of Pine Acres Pond near the Airline Trail were repaired on 6/3/23. Rotted boards were replaced. Thanks to Matt for providing the much-needed oak boards. We have been waiting over a year for Kiosk Maps. Gabe put a call into Lori on 7/3 and is awaiting a response. Matt said he would try to get them printed, at Staples if necessary. 14 maps are needed for the kiosks. Future trail work planned includes resetting the 2 water bars on the Red trail near Grand Junction. Bars were possibly dislodged by logging skidder. Kiosk refurbishing and staining – at least 4 kiosks received a new coat of stain this year. Thank you, Stan Crawford. Refurbishment will continue throughout the season.

5 Year Plan: Lynne said the committee will meet on July 25 or August 3.

Socializing: We need someone to coordinate it, beverage list, task list, PR info, poster. Events twice a year February/March and late September/October are ideal times. Anyone interested in coordinating can contact Jim for information.

501 c 3 Feasibility Committee: Lynne has started writing By Laws. Helen Curry was mentioned as an attorney who has helped other groups. Auer Farm has 501c3 status and CFPA sponsorship. Bill mentioned the benefit of insurance with CFPA. Lynne said we would be able to apply for our own grants without competing with CFPA. This will be part of the 5 Year Plan committee.

Other business: Bill asked about Forestry Day. Bruce said it will be next spring or fall. There are lots of possibilities for making Goodwin the Forestry Center – especially for those who need CEUs for licensing. Jim mentioned a great article in *Woodlands* magazine on benches on trails.

Motion to adjourn by Lynne, second by Bill and the meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Next meeting is September 12, 2023, at 3 PM at Goodwin and hybrid on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Wenner.