Friends of Goodwin Forest

September 25, 2018

Present: E. Logee-Savoie, S. Broderick L. Kochiss, J. Giana, D. May, B. Marshall, C. Rose, B. Bernard, G. Newcombe, J. Sanchez, J. Parda, H. Ivesm K. May

Meeting opened at 1:06. Minutes from May 8 and July 24 approved and accepted.

Treasurer report: Bill reported that we are well positioned for 2018. Our income is on track except for foundation grants. All other income is consistent with the budget projections. The expenses are below our projected expenses for the year. He reported that the board made the decision to donate $250 to Protect Ct Lands. Report approved.

Membership update: Jim read a report from Lesley. As of September 10th there are 8 organizations, 149 individual and 51 couples which totals to 259 members.

Social media: No report

CFPA news and update: Eric not available. Beth reported that CFPA is assisting Goodwin with support toward programs with helping to find grant monies. As a result, 250 6th graders from Windham will be involved in programming through the Project Learning grant which also provides educational supplies. She is also working with CFPA for funding in the amount of $3000 targeted for the Master Naturalist Program. Discussion ensued regarding a show of support for CFPA’s bill through sending out editorials to all local papers. Jim stated he would do this on behalf of FGF.

DEEP: Matt Quinn not available. Jim read a report from Ed McGuire. The Pumpkin Hill harvest is in progress and with the pine harvest the invasives' are being worked on along the 2 acre shelter wood along the powerline. A 100 acre harvest has been marked where there are many dead oak on the 11th Section Road. The 3 acres on the east side will be a final shelter wood. The 97 acres on the west side will be a modified first shelter wood, hoping to get oak and hickory regenerated.

Director’s report: Beth reported that DEEP support has been wonderful. The wireless internet is up and running. The pit toilets are torn down and a proposal is being worked on for replacement toilets. Bob M. and the trail crew applied for a new mower. There are educational programs coming up in October with the Windham 6th graders who will be learning habitats and participating in a learning adventure. Also UCONN students will be at Goodwin two times in October for trail projects.

Beth reported that there is no update as yet on the building, but she is getting localized support with projects. She noted she is getting applicants for the maintainer position. Beth noted the volunteer dinner is being held on November 2nd at “Fantasia” in North Haven.

Education: Helena reported she has the October programs set up and is working on Novembers’.

Trails report: Jim read from Bob M. report. Mowing has been taking place on the more heavily growing trails, but due to rainfall it has been difficult. The crew petitioned for a larger riding mower and received Matt’s approval. Sandy gravel was added to areas of the horse path. Several leaning trees were removed from the White trail as well as windfalls from areas on the Natchaug and Red-White trails. June and Susan continue to alert the crew of these areas. Ed McGuire provided us with a US Forestry warning about widow makers. We released lumber from the DEEP sawmill that was mistakenly given to us, but Matt will give us material for backfill. The activity on the Orange trail is on hold until Ed gives the ok. The new trail maps for Goodwin on hold until approval is obtained. They applied for RTP funding through CFPA. The Equine trail funds were received and work priorities were agreed upon with Matt starting with repairs of the wet sections on the Orange trail. Two of the worst wet sections of the trail bypasses were completed. Dale reported that there is still a stand of “frag mites” in Pine Acres pond, which will need to be removed.

Gardens/Grounds: tabled

Other business: Jim reported on the “Trail Challenge”. He stated the purpose of the challenge is to raise monies to further the mission of the Friends. He gave an update as to where he is, and he is awaiting a new map to complete the report.

Boat shed: Dale stated the boats will be more accessible with the shed and they are also going to put in a floating dock that can be removed. His concern is with the permits, so Beth will get clarification. A motion was passed to have a proposal drawn as to why the boat house is necessary, how it is to be constructed, how it will be maintained and how much of a budget it will need.

By-laws: We reviewed the first couple of articles and the mission of the by-laws.

**Next meeting is November 13, 2018 at 1pm.** Respectfully submitted Emily Logee-Savoie secretary FGF.