

Friends of Goodwin Forest
May 14, 2019

Present: B. Marshall, E. Kimball, F. Zumpano, R. Mazzawy, S. Broderick, L. Kochiss, W. Hastings, J. Giana, H. Ives, J. Parda, E. Hammerling, B. Bernard, J. Hubbard, J. Sanchez, G. Newcombe, E. Logee-Savoie

Meeting opened at 1:05. Minutes of 3/12/19 accepted with correction to the spelling of L. Kochiss' name.

Treasurer report: Bill reported that income is impacted by program fees. Membership dues are about 30 members short, but he is assured that this will pick up throughout the year. Fundraising is off to a good start with the trail run. For expenses he reported that CFPA administered fees are not bad. Treasurer report accepted unanimously.

Membership update: Jim reported that there was no increase.

Social media. No report.

CFPA news & updates: Eric informed us that there were recent articles regarding the "Passport to Parks" program. He has been working with the heads of the appropriation committee on this program advocating to keep the monies for the parks. He informed us that the legislative session ends on June 6th, and we need to encourage our legislatures to support the Governor's budget, which in turn supports the "Passport to Parks" program. Eric reported he has also been working on bonding for recreation trails and greenways. He is looking forward to trails day, which is the largest in the nation.

DEEP: No report.

Director's report: Beth reported that we have been approved for the Ct. trail censor through UCONN, and they will provide the funding for this infra-red counter that will be placed on the Airline trail and will provide data for us such as numbers visited and time of day, etc. She is looking for volunteers to help with approaching people to fill out a survey (scripted) for a pre-census study. She reported that the Forest Action plan survey has ended and the state forestry department uses this as a guide for their plan of action. There will be an informational public forum on June 11 from 6-8 and 1:30-4 at Eastconn to learn more about this. She also brought up that it is a good time to look at the Friend's brochure so that it matches the CFPA agreement. Let her know any suggestions and we will work on revisions next meeting. She reminded everyone that

trails day is June 1st and she is looking for volunteers to help out on both Saturday and Sunday. Beth stated she is working on projects, one of which is the flow of pedestrian traffic by the front garden. The stairs will be moved and signage placed and new pathways created. She asked for help with the front from the friends. She is working with Matt regarding the new restrooms. Beth reported that they got funding for Windham Middle school to return to Goodwin in the fall for 6th and 7th graders. Lena's contract went into effect for the Friends. There is a new copier. She gave a status report on the dam repair and that it will not impact the trail run this year. The control burn across the street went well and now we have to manage the invasives. This burn should take place every other year.

Education/program report: Lena informed us that the number of attendees for programs (380) were the highest yet and Mays are on the upward swing. She is preparing 3 programs a month for children. She is doing 3 programs for Trails weekend. Out of 35 applicants, they have chosen 23 diverse individuals for the Master Naturalist program. She noted they are a great group. They will be finishing the level 2 naturalist program in the fall. Lena informed us she is planning a program in the fall as well for the Cub Scout conference. This is to take place in October.

Physical plant: Steve reported that he did hear from Dan Champagne that a meeting was had with Doug Dubitsky and the commissioner of DEEP and it was decided to put out a bid for lead remediation and that \$230,000 is bonded for this. We thank Sen. Champagne for this positive move on the house.

Trails report: Bob reported he is getting good information for hikers regarding the conditions of the trails. Preparation has been going on for trails day and the run. He stated he got the ok to blaze the orange trail and that the NEMBA volunteer crew built a new stream crossing bridge. Bob noted that Tom Nosal from DEEP should be able to complete the orange trail GPS walk for the Goodwin trail map. Stan is in the final stages of building additional map kiosks for this. He reported that some areas of the joint Natchaug/Orange trail have drainage issues and that Matt has arranged for someone from DEEP to help with that.

Garden and grounds: Warren reported that preparation is ongoing for the plant sale. He reports that he has 6-10 regular volunteers and all is going well.

Goodwin trail challenge committee: Jim reported that folks are taking advantage of the challenge utilizing Facebook and the web.

By-laws review: We finished the review of the media specialist description.

Boat shed: no report.

Trails day: Bill reported that we have approximately 200 participants signed up to the trail run Sunday. They are receiving great support from local businesses for sponsorship who so far have donated \$700 and also products. He ask for cookie donations. He also noted that healthier options will be provided this year for food.

There will be no meetings held in July or August. **There will be a “feel good Friday” held on July 19, starting at 6:00. Bring a dish to share.**

Next meeting will be on September 17 at 1pm. Respectfully submitted by Emily Logee-Savoie, secretary FGF.

