Friends of Goodwin Forest

Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2026

Present: President Linda Wenner, Secretary Emily Logee Savoie, Vice President Stan Crawford, Treasurer David Fowler, Juan Sanchez, Bill Marshall.

Linda called the meeting to order at 1:05pm.

Minutes of February 8, 2026, were reviewed and a motion made to accept was passed.

Financial Report: No change since last meeting. Linda and Dave will meet with CFPA on Friday via zoom to go over financials.

2026 Goodwin Forest Trail Run: Bill said the trail run is going well. He reported that the SUL application is with the state and insurance is set. So far 54 entrants have signed up. We are working on social media to get more participants. Bill reported there are 2 new members to the planning committee. Matt Quinn confirmed that Encon Police will not be needed for the trail run.

Trails update/maps: Bill read the report from Gabe. Maps in the kiosk were supposed to be replaced by DEEP. Discussion ensued. It was voted on for FGF to have Staples do the maps (13) for the kiosks, at a cost of about $500. The trail group will install them into the kiosks. Gabe reported that most of the trails are in decent shape. The clearing of trails is ongoing. He wanted to give thanks to Dave Raczkowsli and Christian Smutnick for keeping Goodwin and Natchaug trails clear. A CFPA summer crew will be put together to do trail work during the first week of June. Matt Quinn has given the FGF crew permission to enter the garage, with proper advance notice, and also the crew is able to enter the forest gates with their vehicles if they display their CFPA Volunteer signs. Mowing will resume soon, let Gabe know if you would like to be on the rotation.

Friends Day at the Capitol: Bill reported that it was a sparse attendance and had only 7 groups of friends. He was able to speak with a couple of DEEP personnel, and advocate for leaving the building open for volunteers. He reported that the

Connecticut Office of Outdoor Industry and Experiences is looking to promote activities at state parks to make them more attractive. He was also able to speak with Ryan Snide of Pachaug, President of Connecticut Friends of State Parks. He will be a good resource for us.

DEEP update: Stan: Stan has been reaching out to repair the connection with DEEP. An application needs to be done by volunteers and given to Gabe to forward to the state. There are certain stipulations for the volunteers to follow for the trail crew. The state will make the decision where the bike rack will go, after the final approval is done.

Legislative Update: Linda: Linda reported that Senate Bill 279, regarding Passport to Parks, has some new language that has the veterans and those persons over 65+ exempt from paying the charge on the registration. This will detrimentally affect the program, significantly reducing the amount of funds needed to fund the Passport to Parks. There hasn't been any more movement on this since 3/12/2026. She will send a copy of a letter written that can be forwarded to your local congressman/Senator/representative if you want one. She noted that DEEP is also against this change.

Social media: Linda: Linda is keeping up with Facebook posts, sending out informative clips around nature. April 9 was a high with over 6.600 views. Gabe maintains the Web page. There are about 3,000 followers on FB.

Membership: Linda: Linda reported that we had 124 members in 2024. No action for dues has been taken as of yet. This will be tabled until after she and Dave's zoom meeting with CFPA.

Non-profit status: Linda: This will remain on hold for now until she and Dave have a conversation with CFPA. Bill noted that the application is simple for 501(c)3 status, but we need by laws, which Jim Giana started, and the Friends of State Parks has a sample on their website as well.

Other: It was discussed if we do get our own 501c3 status, we will need insurance for liability and for the officers. Estimated costs for Liability is $1000 for 1 Million in coverage and $335 to $425 for coverage for officers.

Stan noted that the west side of Black Spruce Pond logging operation is on hold due to the endangered bat babies there.

A question was raised regarding the Goodwin endowment disbursement. This is controlled by DEEP, and is specifically earmarked for Goodwin Education. It amounts to about $8,000 a quarter.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25pm.

Next Meeting is Tuesday May 26, 2026, at 1PM at Hampton Town Hall. (The meeting will be held in the outdoor Pavillion if weather allows.)

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Logee Savoie