

Friends of Goodwin Forest

Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2023 in person and on Zoom

Present: in person: President Jim Giana, Recording Secretary Linda Wenner, Beth Bernard, Bill Marshall, Steve Broderick, Jim Parda, Glen Newcomb, Matthew Quinn, Stacey Jimenez, Juan Sanchez, and on zoom: Gabe Zorabedian, Eric Hammerling, Robert Mazzawy, Lynne Warren.

The meeting was called to order by Jim at 1:02 PM. The minutes of March 14, 2023 were accepted as amended.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bruce Spaman was away and no treasurer's report was available.

Membership Report: There has been no updates to the membership. Jim said we have 104 Friends only members and 137 dual members for 241 total.

Social Media: Lynne said the jumping worm problem recommendation is no plant sale this year and possibly next year as well. There is no solution to this problem as yet. Mail Chimp is starting to charge for over a certain amount of people. 50% of recipients opened the last email with the newsletter, 18% bounced due to a bad address or a full mailbox. Next newsletter will be in August or September. Beth and Bill both praised the newsletter! Motion to accept report by Bill, second by Eric, passed unanimously.

Trail Run: Bill reported registrations of 121 as of today (93 last year at the same time). Donations of \$281 received and 51 t-shirts sold (lime shock color this year). Total \$4,090 so far. 30 t-shirts still available for purchase. He still needs 5 volunteers for aid stations and several more for parking. Bill noted that he has invited Trail Run volunteers to the Open House. Motion to accept the report by Steve, seconded by Juan, passed unanimously.

Friends of State Parks Day at the Capitol: Bill reported that no session was held that day so legislators were scarce, but a few did visit and also several DEEP personnel. "83 are not enough" pins were distributed and Linda brought some back for everyone.

CFPA: Eric said even though there were not many legislators at the Friends Day, lots of great things came out of it. The legislative version of the budget proposal now includes the 15 additional park maintainers and an additional \$10 million in support for parks! Ask your legislator to support the legislative version of the budget. The Governor's budget only asks for 1 more maintainer. Funding of the additional 15 maintainers would come from \$8 million in the Comptroller's budget and \$900,000 from Passport to the Parks in the appropriations budget. Please contact the Governor and your legislators by May 19th to ask them to support the legislative budget proposal. The SCORP surveys (one for "avid outdoor enthusiasts" and another for "casual users") are another way to express your opinion, this time to DEEP. Eric announced that he is leaving CFPA on 6/9 for a position at DEEP as director of development. Gail will be interim director while a search is completed. Eric said it has been a pleasure to work with us and he hopes to attend the Open House. Motion to accept the report by Steve, seconded by Juan, passed unanimously.

Garden Report: Lynne said she has 12 new volunteers and another 18 interested. They have been working in the gardens, pulling invasives, dragging for ticks and revamping the children's trail and hope to add musical instruments there. They are a hard-working and enthusiastic group. You will see blue tree

tape and plastic wrap on the shaggy pine just off the deck – this tree will be taken down eventually. Bill gave kudos to the garden crew for helping prepare the trail run trophy logs. Motion to accept the report by Steve, seconded by Juan and unanimously accepted.

DEEP News: Matt introduced Stacey Jimenez as the new trail manager. They have a big push on trails and have some seasonal workers coming. All DEEP communications can now go through Matt. He asked that the Friends do their own 501c-3 IRS status and keep him posted on our progress. 501c-3 status will benefit us in applying for grants, as it has other Friends groups. Mansfield Hollow is 501c-3 and we could probably cut and paste a lot of the same info. Lynne said the 5 Year Plan committee could work on this at their next meeting. All of DEEP equipment is off limits for Friends use per new supervisor. 2 more EnCon officers are now working in this area as well an unarmed person. Matt asked about the medical plans for the run and Bill said rescue personnel in all 3 towns have been alerted and provided maps and other info such as extraction information, etc. Jim questioned the law about carrying a hand gun in state parks (\$75 infraction). Matt said that is in federal court and has not yet been ruled on. Motion to accept the report by Steve, second by Juan, unanimously accepted.

Director's Report: Beth invited us all to stop by on Mondays or Fridays in May and early June from 9 to 1 while the Windham Middle School students are here. The jumping worms are a big hit with the students as well as hiking, fishing and learning about camping. For some kids this is their first time being in the woods! The "Writing the Land" partnership had 20 WMS students come to Goodwin to meet with a poet laureate for a day long poetry writing workshop. The work has been published and Beth passed around the publication. Juan suggested having copies available at the Open House. The last phase of siding repair has been on hold. Beth's PSA contract ends 12/31/23 so she has to work on renewal of the contract with the new ED. Matt and Jerry have been very helpful with school projects. 2 campsite benches have disappeared and need to be replaced and more are needed. The meadow, which is used by student to catch insects, is over-run with poison ivy. Matt will get it sprayed. No action has been taken on a security system and Matt will look into that as well. Beth noted that Jim Little is also leaving CFPA and Linda Pierce will be the new development director. Motion to accept report by Juan, seconded by Steve, accepted unanimously.

Education Report: Adam Drouin could not make the meeting but Beth said he has many programs scheduled including a pond study, litter cleanup, and insect bonanza with the Girl Scouts.

Physical Plant: Matt said siding should be done soon then gutters and a new roof will be installed. He is having the contractor fix the areas on the new dam where grass failed. He is gradually lowering the lake level to help the ecology at Governor's Island. About 30 logs are across the yellow trail and need to be removed before the trail run. Laurie wants Beth to do a story walk at Goodwin with 18 signs. Beth and Matt will walk potential locations. Lynne suggested tying in with the children's garden.

Trails: Gabe said poison ivy is growing everywhere, even where it has never been before. It is right by the gate next to the pavilion where anyone walking by will get it. Lynne said higher CO2 levels are encouraging poison ivy growth. Gabe said 8 volunteers from ECSU worked on April 22nd spreading gravel over 100 feet of wet blue trail near 11th Section Road. They spread about 10 tons of crushed stone in about 2 hours. Gabe gave a big thank you to all who made it happen on short notice. The yellow trail at Brown Hill Marsh is again under water (high water or beaver revenge?). Stacey has cleared a work-around trail and re-blazed it. It looks awesome, thank you, Stacey. Matt said they will get an excavator in there to lower the water so the trail should reappear. Stan Crawford has stained kiosks 5

and 6. Summer crew may be able to stain remaining kiosks, but it is a secondary project. DAS has the Kiosk map order and as soon as they are done Lori will get them out to Goodwin. There is logging on the yellow trail and about 30 trees across the trail. Gary Evans guarantees they will be removed by the trail run. Gabe will remind the loggers to get that done. Matt will talk to Dan also but said to plan on a go-around back up plan. Gabe will send emails in the next few days to volunteers to help be sure trails are clear. Stacey said check with her about drainage issues and she will work on them too. It was mentioned that some runners like mud. Motion to accept the report by Steve, seconded by Bill, accepted unanimously.

Socializing Events: Feel Good Friday emails and reminders went out. Beth and Lynne will send out flyers to the lists this week. Steve sent notices to the JI and local town papers. Lynne will post to various town Face Book pages. Jim has purchased beverages, Steve will purchase sandwiches. Everyone can bring nibbles to share. We need large coolers with ice. Steve encouraged everyone to attend and bring friends. We especially want to be sure there are people to hear the presentations. Print off flyers and post at the post office, gas stations, etc. around your town. Motion to accept the report by Juan, second by Jim P, accepted unanimously.

Other Business: Beth reminded us that Trail Day Weekend is the first weekend in June and programs are offered at Goodwin. www.CTTrailsDay.org. Family forestry Day is 10/21 (rain date 10/22) at Goodwin. Juan said there is a new book out, Mary Treat- a Biography, that he recommends.

Motion to adjourn by Steve, second by Juan and the meeting adjourned at 2:53 PM.

Next meeting is July 11, 2023, at 6 PM at Goodwin and hybrid on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Wenner.