

Friends of Goodwin Forest
January 14, 2020

Present: E. Logee-Savoie, J. Parda, J. Griffin, L. Kochiss, S. Crawford, B. Mazzaway, M. Sokoloski, S. Sokoloski, R. Goode, C. Lee, K. Parekh, W. Hastings, N. Palydys, B. Spaman, E. Hammerling, S. Dupllis, H. Merson, J. Sanchez, L. Warren, M. Quinn, L. Ives, B. Bernard

Meeting opened at 1pm with a report of the dam status by Charles Lee from CT DEEP. He gave a brief overview of what needs to be repaired and how the process works from design, permits, funding and the final bid on the project. He stated they want the project to have a minimal impact on Goodwin. Romona Goode from CT DEEP gave an overview of the phases of restructuring of the dam starting with the auxiliary spillway and ending with the primary spillway. Both projects are expected to be completed in the start year. Some discussion took place with assurances that the top of the dam will accommodate the mower. Questions were raised as to when the project would start. Kartik Parekh, CT DEEP, spoke of the time-line and the permitting process. It was noted that the project could start ideally this Spring, but more than likely next Spring and that typically it takes 3 years for these projects.

The minutes of November 12, 2019 were reviewed and unanimously accepted.

Treasurer Report: Bill handed out the 2020 budget proposal and the final financials of 2019, with comparisons to 2017 and 2018. He noted that the budget for 2019 came out in the positive of \$4,000, due in part to a good fundraising year and his conservative budgeting. He stated that 2020 won't be at that level due to decreased program fees and participants. He also gave a softer cushion to fundraising for 2020. The treasurer's report was unanimously accepted as well as the 2020 budget. A great job done by Bill.

Membership: jim gave a brief report on membership noting there are currently 260 total members.

Social Media: Lynn reported that the web site traffic has increased to over a 1,000 visits a month. Facebook has 810 followers and that sharing the events is happening. We are getting referrals from other sites as well.

CFPA: Eric gave an overview of happenings in CFPA. The recreational trails and greenways is without bonding at this time and we may need to give voice to our Legislatures regarding the program funding and we will need to keep an eye on the Passport to Parks program to assure the monies are not diverted elsewhere. An annual report was completed for Passport to Parks, which breaks down attendance, the operation and maintenance of the parks and income generated. This brochure can be shared. He noted that CFPA is working on a 3 year strategic plan which includes the anniversary of CFPA. He also has a proposal regarding a tax incentive for landowners who create an easement for trails. Eric also reported that he will be a co-chair for a revitalized committee by Governor Lamont dealing with the protection and positive management of private and state forests as it relates to climate change.

DEEP: Matt reported that the state has approved more money for removal of hazardous trees, which will include Goodwin and Natchaug. This big project will effectively cause closures of some of the major trails at Goodwin and portions of others. Matt will send a map of the specific areas to be affected. Concern was voiced over the closure and how it will affect programming

at Goodwin. Unfortunately, this is a hazard and safety issue, but Matt will keep Goodwin informed of the time-line and closed areas.

Education: Lena presented a slide on the number of attendees for 2019, outlining the months of increased attendance versus low attended months and how this affects programming. She presented an overview of public and private programs that she did and how to expand on these. She recommended the following: continuing the series programs, continue with the monthly programs(hikes), use seasonal coordination for programs(April, May, June, Sept and October), continue with private programs(utilize LIR), expand on the Master Naturalist program, target marketing, find better ways to get families out to Goodwin, work with Beth regarding the after school programs, and create a youth Master naturalist program. She shared her accomplishments for the year and it is with sadness but ---- we say goodbye to Lena.

Directors' report: Beth reported that anyone with an activity for trails weekend is encouraged to register on -line now. She gave an update on the siding for the house. The PO has been created and as soon as it is signed off, bids will go out. She reported that a winter staffer has been added, Mike McCabe, and she will be actively seeking a Spring/Summer maintainer as well. She is also searching for a replacement for Lena. She noted that due to this, January and February programs will be slow. She is working on a funding proposal for funding for the Windham after school program. She also noted she is planning a Forestry Family Day at Goodwin. Beth reported that Joshua Trust is collaborating with Project Learning Tree regarding climate change which she will take part in March.

Trails report: Bob reported that the crew is continuing with clean up of windfalls. Stan and Glen did the annual water repellent treatment of the stand on Governors Island. Stan and Bob assisted with the planning and construction of the wetlands boardwalk and observation deck at CFPA headquarters. The orange trail is now open, and Matt is coordinating with Tom Nosal to complete the GPS walk. Master Naturalist Laurie Averill assisted in the update of the Forest Discovery Trail route and it is now blazed. A riding bush mower continues to be an addition for trail maintenance. Bob reported that they plan to apply for funding again from the AQHA.

Other business: Jim noted that the boat shed is on hold at this time.

Nominations: Jim presented the slate of officers for nomination. A motion was passed to elect the slate as is. This was unanimously passed. President: Jim Giana, V.P. Steve Broderick, Recording Secretary: Emily Logee-Savoie and Bill Marshall as treasurer.

Meeting adjourned at 3pm

Next meeting is March 17, 2020 at 1pm.

Respectfully submitted by E. Logee-Savoie