

## Friends of Goodwin Forest

September 14, 2021

Meeting opened at 1:05pm with introductions made.

Present: J. Giana, B. Marshall, C. Rose, B. Mazzaway, S.Sakoloski, M. Sakoloski, J. Sanchez, A. Fichter, L. Brant, B. Spaman, B. Bernard, E. Logee-Savoie, B. Avery

Minutes of 7/15/21 accepted and approved.

**Treasurer's report:** Bill reported that as of 8/31/21 there is \$43,478 in the account. He noted that the donations and the plant sale did very well. He reported that the expenditures are in line with what has been budgeted. All is well with the budget. Report was unanimously accepted.

**Membership update:** Jim reported that the membership chair is resigning, so we will need to post for another on the volunteer sheet from CFPA. He gave a brief overview of what the position entails. Currently there are 226 members on the roster, however not all are paid. He noted that CFPA did a dues reminder as did the Friends. Report accepted.

**Social media:** No report

**Garden report:** No report. Beth reported that the total plant sale is \$6,000.

**CFPA news & updates:** Eric reported that due to contractual changes within the DEEP which will take place 7/1/22 is causing a large amount (35%-45%) of current employees to retire/leave. This will definitely affect the resources that will be available to run the parks. They parks will be relying heavily on the Friend's groups to provide help. He noted that the annual meeting, volunteer appreciation, will be in person, as of this date. The date is set for November 5, 2021. He reported that recreational trail funding is available and requests are being taken and due by November 1. Report accepted.

**DEEP news & updates:** Matt is still away on fire assignment. Beth reported that the retirement wave has already started at Goodwin.

**Director's report:** Beth reported that the house is moving forward with the siding phase. A solicitation was put out to finish the project. The outdoor classroom has been completed. The offices have been moved upstairs, minus the computers, which are awaiting wiring. She noted that Meg is working on improving/updating the museum. She asked for assistance with developing a creative solution to the horse trailer parking. Bob raised concern over the map in the kiosk and wondered if it can get replaced. Lori noted that October, staff will be returning to Hartford and once computers are up and running, she and Beth should be able to print out the maps. Lori then gave a brief overview of what was coming in 2022. The Environmental Branch is looking to focus its outreach on diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. She stated that there is a need to incorporate climate change/crisis into programs. She asked what can we do to change the trajectory of climate change and what is in our control to be able to change it. She also noted that there is a need for the year-round sites to help support the seasonal sites programs.

**Education/program report:** Beth reported that the Master Naturalists graduated last week and the next program will be Spring 2022. The Master Woodland Manager program started on the 19<sup>th</sup>, and they will have a tree ID class. The Windham School Partners has begun and there are also a lot of hikes coming up. She reported that there was a family forestry day a few weeks ago and the Girl Scout "Love State Parks Day" went well. She noted we have a CFPA intern here at Goodwin, Bryan. Jim gave a big thank you to Meg and all who helped with the outdoor classroom. Awesome job.

**Goodwin physical plant & maintenance:** Mike reported that the maintenance work staff for Goodwin and 5-6 other facilities is down to 4 staff, so they are spread pretty thin. He appreciates the help from all who pitch in.

**Trails report:** Bob reported that due to the multiple storms there are a lot of trees down, but he and the trail crew are staying ahead of it. He reported that water seal has been applied to the benches and platforms and new benches were constructed for the outdoor classroom. He noted that they have been doing brush trimming and mowing of multiple trails, and will be getting gravel to replace the erosion that has occurred on some trails. Jim reported that a group of horse riders complimented the way the trails are very functional and debris free. Lori

made a suggestion that the Friend's need to get the users of Goodwin(horse, hikers, bikers) involved by inviting them to meeting or take a survey.

**Goodwin Trust update:** Beth reported that she was given the latest copy of the trust statement. The market value is a about 1 million, 50 thousand. The seasonal salaries are getting moved from the trust. Eric reported that there is a copy of the trust and clarified that funding from the trust can be used for maintenance, building, grounds and education.

**Renewal of Personal Service Agreement:** Lori gave an update and noted it is in the approval process.

**Status of full-time maintainer and other Goodwin staffing needs:** Lori gave an update.

**The Friends of Goodwin Open house will be at the pavilion on Friday September 17, 2021.**

It was decided to defer the anniversary of the Friend's until the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Next meeting is November 9, 2021.** Meeting adjourned at 2:37 Respectfully submitted by Emily Logee-Savoie.