

Friends of Goodwin Forest
September 17, 2019

Present: B. Johnson, W. Hastings, S. Crawford, B. Mazzaway, G. Hall, B. Bernard, J. Giana, E. Hammerling, B. Marshall, C. Rose, L. Warren, H. Ives, E. Kimbal, B. Spaman, E. Logee-Savoie

Meeting opened at 1:04. Minutes of May 14, 2019 reviewed and accepted with 2 corrections.

Lori Brant, the new DEEP director of Education and Outreach was introduced. She gave a brief overview of her past positions and experiences and noted she is listening and talking with staff over a nine day transition.

Treasurer's report: Bill reported that we are in a favorable position compared to the budget. Income shows that the program fees are less, but we haven't had the logger or Master Naturalist level 2 programs yet. He noted that fundraising exceeded our expectations, especially the plant sales and trail run. He reported that expenses are at the budgeted amount.

Membership: Jim reported that we are at approximately 209 members and renewals are still coming in.

Social Media/marketing-newsletter: Lynn reported that the newsletter is a big hit. We now have 815 followers on Facebook. The events page has proven very useful. She noted that the detour is posted for the orange trail due to the logging. Jim asked her to put the "trail challenge" information back up.

CFPA news: Eric reported that the honorary director Astrid Hanzalek passed away and that Ed Richardson, who did measurements, pictures and locations for our large trees, is very ill. They will be planting a Burr Oak in his honor at Elizabeth Park on 9/24/19 at noon. Eric reported on the situation with bonding for the Recreational and Greenway Programs. At this time it had not been dealt with by the end of the session, nor in two separate sessions since. He believes the bonding issue will be presented in October, but will keep us informed so we can get in touch with our legislatures. This bonding supports our statewide trails. Eric reported that the strategic plan for 2020 has begun and this is an important one for it is CFPA's 125 year anniversary. He would like to hear from the "partners" like FGF, to learn where the CFPA's strengths and weaknesses fall.

DEEP: Matt not available. Beth reported that people were at the house today to evaluate the project. She stated they will start on the north side section around the chimney area. They will use this as a tester for the larger project to get an idea of cost. A bid will be going out and the goal is to have this done by the end of 2019. Beth noted the rest room project is still pending. Discussion took place regarding tree work that is

needed around the house and Lena reported that there are a significant number of dead trees on the red/white trail. Beth brought up the issue of contacting DEEP regarding spraying for mosquitoes to see if there is a date. Discussion ensued regarding the necessity and the harm it can do to bee hives and other insects. Beth will keep us informed. Beth asked if anyone can help out on 9/28/19 with the Hampton Fall Festival with Bob and Warren to man a FGF table. She also needs volunteers to help with 500 students from the Windham Middle School(6th &7th graders) who will be here on Tuesdays and Wednesdays starting next week. Beth reported on project coming up by CFPA to create a Master Woodland Owner program There is more to come on that. Nick Parson, a sociology professor from Eastern, would like to partner with us so his students can come here to hike as part of his curriculum. There is also a group of second graders from Natchaug Elementary School who will be coming to Goodwin, date to be announced. In the Spring, the Windham after school program staff would like to work with Goodwin to train them with nature projects and getting students outside. Eric noted that the Volunteer Dinner is on November 1st.

Goodwin Center physical plant and maintenance: Bob reported that he is gearing up for the leaf season. The project for changing the step location in the front is beginning and he has been working on repairing the garden prep beds.

Education report: Lena shared her graf of public and private attendance sheet. She noted the peak attendance is April through June and the lowest attendance is July and August. She noted that events coming up Art Day, which will be on October 6th from 12-4 and will have activities for all ages and abilities. There also will be a Scout Day on October 19th which will be geared towards the badges they work toward. The Master Naturalist level 2 program starts this Saturday and has 13 students in it. She reported that the level 1 Master Naturalist has 89 who completed the program and 11 completed the level 2, so this program will level it out.

Gardens: Warren reported that the Wednesday volunteer group is going well. They have new projects they are looking at, one being the addition of a water garden, a moss garden. Work has continued on the Discovery Trail and they are expanding the pollinator garden. Lynn noted that due to the construction on the north side of the house the fringe tree will have to be moved.

Other business: Jim had Lynn post a guide for what is the 19 mile trail challenge. Bill gave a report on trails day June 1, 2019. He noted there were 193 participants who were mostly from Connecticut, with some from Massachusetts and a few from Rhode Island. The number of return runners from previous events were 25%. He stated that they used a lot more social media to advertise. Bill thanked the Town of Hampton for a great job and support and also the volunteers from the FGF. He noted that next year they will have T-shirts for a nominal fee and shared the logo that will go on the shirts. This year the finishers got bandanas and the blazed log. Some

discussion took place regarding changing the date for the run, but Bill gave the reason why it is on this date due to the delicate balance within the series.

Next meeting is November 12, 2019 at 1pm. Respectfully submitted by Emily Logee-Savoie secretary FGF