

Friends of Goodwin Forest

March 8, 2022

Via zoom

The minutes of 1/25/2022 were approved.

Trails report: Bob reported that no new work is being done at this time, but plans are developing for improvements on the Red and Red/White trail in preparation for the June trail run. He noted that they are looking forward to working with the CFPA summer crew to improve the Natchaug Trail section at Goodwin. Bob also noted that the grant program from AQHA is still not open.

Treasurer's report: Bill introduced our new treasurer Bruce Spaman who reported that 78% of our dues are in. He noted that expenses are not up yet due to the time of year. Report unanimously accepted.

Membership update: Jim reported that as of 3/9/22, we have 73 members, 54 dual members and 19 Friends' donations in the amount of \$655. He noted that total donations were about \$1800. Report unanimously accepted.

Social media: No report.

Garden report: Warren reported that all orders for plants are in. He asked if there were objections to doing a price increase this year for the sale. Discussion ensued. It was agreed to do a price increase this year. Bruce noted a local whole sale nursery that could be used as a resource for Goodwin, Prides Corner Farm. Warren will look into it. Report unanimously accepted.

CFPA news & updates: Eric reported that the Ct. General Assembly is currently in its' short session (12 weeks). One of the hot issues is how DEEP is assessing hazardous trees for removal. Eric noted on 3/15, DEEP will present to the Legislatures their issues with identification of hazard trees and how to go forward. Another issue this year is making sure there is additional funding for recreational trail use. Eric noted last year the Governor released \$3million for recreational trail use and once again this year there is monies available. He also noted that once again a group is proposing a change to passport to parks program. A bill has been proposed to make an "exempt" group which would undoubtedly affect the monies

generated for the passport to parks program. He also noted that such exceptions only generate other exceptions. Eric reported that the Capital and the LOB buildings are now open to public and meetings, which allows for face-to-face contact. The last issue Eric had was regarding DEEP proposing to legislators to allow them more authority to evict persons involved in illicit activities in the state parks. Report unanimously accepted.

DEEP news & updates: Matt was unavailable, but Beth noted that mask mandate has been removed. There is a possible increase in seasonal staffs' pay rates. She reported that the Naturalist position has been posted.

Director's report: She reported that she and Bryan interviewed candidates for the Adult Education position. She reported that the Master Naturalist program planning is underway. She noted that Bryan has some great programs underway. Report unanimously accepted.

Education/program report: Bryan gave brief descriptions of upcoming programs being offered at Goodwin. These can be accessed on the Goodwin site and the CFPA site. He noted that the Scout Forestry Day at Goodwin will take place April 30th. Report unanimously accepted.

Goodwin center physical plant & maintenance: Mike reported that he is tending to everyday needs at Goodwin. He gave a "Thank you" to Stan for all his help with ongoing projects: Report unanimously accepted.

Goodwin staffing needs: Jim suggested that a committee be formed to develop an action plan to address maintainer position.

Lending Library: Lynn dropped off a bin at Goodwin for donated books. Stan reported that h is all set to go for building the library.

Old business: Jim brought up the building security issue. Beth stated she had addressed this with Lori and Matt, but will continue to do so. She did contact Dinosaur State Park, but they have an old system in place. Warren suggested a camera be placed on the gazebo for the plant sale.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:29pm.

Next meeting is May 10 @1pm @ Goodwin. Respectfully submitted by Emily Logee-Savoie