

Friends of Goodwin Forest

May 10, 2022

Present: J. Parda, G. Newcomb, B. Spaman, B. Marshall, E. Logee-Savoie, M. McCabe, E. Horning-King, b. Avery, E. Hammerling, M. Quinn, L. Kochess, B. Bernard, L. Wenner, J. Giana

Meeting was called to order at 1:05pm. Minutes of March 8, 2022 were approved.

Treasurer report: Bruce reported that we are at 57% of income and 17% of expenses and we are sticking close to the budgeted amount. Report was unanimously accepted.

Membership update: Jim reported that we are doing well. He noted we have 93 friend's and 139 dual memberships. Report was unanimously accepted.

Social media: No report.

Garden report: Warren reported we are readying for the plant sale on June 4 & 5. (Friend's can come on 6/2 & 6/3) The parking area across from the gardens will be blocked off for plant sale parking. He noted he has a couple of new volunteers. He reported that a camera is needed at the gazebo and it was suggested that a trail cam can be put there. He will check with Beth. Report was unanimously accepted.

CFPA news & updates: Eric gave a brief overview of the Legislative session. He reported that hazardous trees captured the attention of some especially with the controversy regarding the Housatonic Meadows. They wanted a specific process regarding how a tree is determined to be hazardous. The bill did not pass. There was a compromise for only state parks and campgrounds. DEEP, by 8/1/22, needs to come up with a new policy and report back to the Legislature. Eric noted that there will be a pilot project at Housatonic Meadows to replace trees. He reported that there were good victories for the state parks with funding earmarked for infrastructure projects. He also reported that additional funding has been added to the Passport for Parks program. Eric also reported that a bill was brought forth at the end of the session to sell a piece of Housatonic Meadow's property to a

private entity. This did not get called. He went on to give an overview of Ct. Trails Day and reported that registration has officially opened. (View at trailsday.org) He reported that there will be an appreciation event for volunteers/members, on July 27, 2022 at Peoples State Forest from 3-7.

DEEP news & updates: Matt gave a brief update on the DAM project, which should be completed by August/September. He gave an over view of other projects. He noted there was no news on hazardous tree cutting at Goodwin. Matt noted he did not have any news regarding refill of positions and that our maintainer position ends this July. He noted Mike does a lot for Goodwin with helping with trail projects and grounds' work.

Director's report: Eric gave a brief overview for Beth. Welcoming Eoin Horning-Kane our new naturalist. He reported that we have not heard from Lori Brant regarding Mike's position and the position ends in July. He noted that the Master Naturalist Program is up and running with 25 in attendance. Beth added that the school programs (Hampton Elementary, Windham Center School and Windham Middle School) are continuing, the Windham schools received funding from Community Foundation of Eastern CT grants and a FGF scholarship. She reported that she is glad the center is using the new downstairs space for programs and new tables and chairs are on order.

Education/program report: Eoin gave a brief bio and gave an outline of programs available for Trails Day. He is looking for suggestions for programs to offer at Goodwin. Bryan gave an overview of programs being offered in May at Goodwin. He also noted that he is looking to install a stream formation table by the museum. He gave a brief overview of Scout Forestry Day that took place on April 30th.

Goodwin Center physical plant & maintenance: Mike reported that he has been busy with the grounds at Goodwin and assisting with maintaining trails.

Trails report: Bill read that report from Bob. A work party was held on April 23rd with 5 volunteers from REI joining the crew to repair the slope o the red trail, they also completed adding gravel to a wet section of red-white trail. Small trees were removed from a section of the blue-white trail. A work party to be held in

May will address needs on trails to be prepared for June 5th trail run. It was also noted the Goodwin plans to host the CFPA Summer Crew for a project to improve the Natchaug Trail section of Goodwin to the Airline trail. It was reported that the RTP program has been reinstated and this will fund a load of gravel/stones.

Trail run: Bill reported that the 8th annual trail run takes place at Goodwin on June 5th. They are in their final preparation for this. He noted that so far there are 95 registrants. Things are going well. He reported that they have T-Shirts for sale and these can be ordered on the FGF website. He gave a special thanks to DEEP and Matt for their help. A concern was raised regarding staff needed for parking. Bill noted this and will bring this up at the next trail run meeting.

Goodwin staffing needs: Jim noted the long-range plan is to have a full-time maintainer provided by DEEP. Mike needs a 90-day extension which will be funded by FGF at a cost of \$6,630. Discussion ensued and a determination made vote on this extension and funding. The vote passed unanimously. Beth also stated that the part time contractual (Elizabeth Merow) for the Master Naturalist and Master Woodland programs is extremely helpful.

Lending Library: Lynn reported that the Little Free Library is very popular and books are needed. She also noted we need to promote this more.

Other business: Beth noted that volunteers need to be sure that they login their hours on the CFPA volunteer portal (ctwoodlands.galaxydigital.com)

Linda reported that she does Osprey siting, and noted that one of the pairs is missing and was hoping it is here at Goodwin, or if anyone knows of a nest to let her know. She also brought up the feasibility of Goodwin having its own Osprey nesting perch. She will discuss this more with Beth.

Meeting adjourned at 2:59pm. Next meeting is July 12, 2022 at 1pm at Goodwin. Respectfully submitted by Emily Logee-Savoie