Minutes of Friends of Goodwin Forest Meeting

July 24, 2018

Attendees: B.Bernard, L.Bourque, S.Crawford, J.Parda, S.Broderick, G.Westfall, D.May, J.Giana, W.Hastings, L.Mathes, G.Newcombe, R.Mazzawy, C.Rose, J.Sha, B.Marshall, K.May.

Called to order at 1:05 pm

1. Approval of May 8, 2018 meeting tabled.
2. Treasurer Report – This year’s income is consistent with that of previous years. DEEP has been covering more day to day expenses at the Goodwin Conservation and Education Center (GCC). There were 128 runners participating in the Trail Run this year which is a fund raising event.
3. Membership Update – there is a new Membership Chairperson. Thank you to Lesley Bourque for taking on this role. The Friends of Goodwin Forest (FGF) now have 198 members. Four new members were recently added.
4. Social Media – report next meeting.
5. CFPA News - The CFPA event on July 19th at Westford Hill Distillery was well attended. Remember to vote ‘yes’ on November 6th to support SJR #35, the Constitutional amendment to protect public lands. There is information at ProtectPublicLands.org. There was a **motion** by Steve Broderick to have Jim Giana send letters to the editors of the appropriate newspapers to inform voters about SJR#35. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
6. DEEP News – Park Supervisor Matt Quinn has put in a capital request to replace the aging pick-up truck at GCC. Airline Trail upgrades are scheduled in the future. “Passport to the Parks” funds are finding their way to GCC.
7. Director Report/Education Report - Jasper Sha, the GCC Naturalist, will be departing in the early fall. He has taken a position as a Nuclear Chemical Technician. Thank you Jasper for all your innovative programs and hard work in the past few years. Jason Rounds, our seasonal maintainer, has also departed GCC. A card is being sent to his family from the FGF congratulating them on the recent birth of their 3rd child. Beth is reminding all the volunteers to please record your hours before August 31, 2018. The CFPA volunteer year runs from September 1 until August 31. The gardens are beautiful and there is plenty of opportunity for helping out as a volunteer. Just let Beth know when you can help out. A grant from the Eastern CT Community Foundation has been approved to fund Windham Middle School 6th graders coming to GCC this fall with an appropriate educational program for them.

The Forest Discovery Trail information update is in progress. Funding is needed to print the brochure. Goodwin house repairs are still in the DEEP pipeline. Director priorities for the next 2 months include hiring and orienting 2 new staff and checking progress on the house project.

Volunteers are needed for three upcoming events:

1). “DISCOVER OUTDOOR CONNECTICUT, JOIN THE FORCE FOR THE RESOURCE”. This is a DEEP event on September 22nd at the Franklin Swamp WMA off Route 32 in Franklin from 10-4.

2). HAMPTON FALL FESTIVAL – September 29th.

3). The October event is on October 4th at the Student Union in Storrs … “Invasive Plants in Uncertain Times”. See the CIPWG website: [www.cipwg.uconn.edu](http://www.cipwg.uconn.edu).

1. Trails Report – There was chainsaw safety training for 9 people in June. There are new first aid materials for chainsaw users available. Work has been done on the Natchaug Trail to improve wet spot crossing. Trail work on the Orange Trail will happen in the fall once the harvest is completed. There was a **motion** to ‘designate Dale May as Pond Manager’. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Dale will be in charge of programs on the ponds.
2. Garden Report – Wednesday work days are working out well with 4-6 volunteers. The Mansfield Mustangs have been a big help. Pollinators have arrived. Gypsy moth damage has occurred on some trees in the gardens. Other pests are being dealt with using appropriate, environmentally safe measures.
3. Other Business – Jim Giana has established a ‘Goodwin Trail Challenge” committee. Updates forthcoming at future meetings.

There was discussion regarding the difficulty of moving canoes for events from the garage to the boat launch. Visitors like pond/canoe events. The possibility of constructing a ‘boat shed’ and increasing canoe programs is being investigated.

There was discussion regarding outreach to surrounding towns concerning the important historical and current impact of the GCC and James L. Goodwin.

By-Laws will be discussed in future.

Next meeting of the FGF: September 25, 2018 … 1-3 pm at the GCC.

Watch for a “Feel Good Friday” event notice currently scheduled for September 21.

Adjourned: 2:50 pm

Minutes submitted by J.Parda, impromptu Secretary FGF.