

Friends of Goodwin Forest
March 12, 2019

Present: C. Rose, F. Zumpano, B. Marshall, G. Newcombe, B. Mazzawy, A. Kaye, B. Powers, J. Parda, J. Little, M. Quinn, L. Rochiss, B. Bernard, J. Giana, L. Ives, J. Sanchez, E. Logee-Savoie

Meeting opened at 1pm.

We welcomed Jim Little, Development Director of CFPA. He thanked FGF for all the work we do. Jim gave a brief synopsis of the Windham Program last year and stated he has asked for more grants to do more of this kind of educational programs to get children outside and engaged. He wants to continue to run these type of educational programs and is looking for help to tap more resources to provide funding for these programs.

Minutes of January 8, 2019, were approved with a minor revision under education to reflect 2018 not 2015.

Treasurer report: Bill presented the budget. We are 2 months into the year and basically everything is in line with the budget. He noted that there were expenses incurred early this year due to the purchase of plants for the plant sale and some equipment expenses. He has begun to include in the budget the CFPA administrative expense. The report was unanimously accepted.

Membership update: Jim reported from Lesley's memo that there were 2 new memberships in January and 31 renewals, which brings us to a total of 212 members.

Social media: No report. Bill stated that Lynn does an excellent job with supporting the trail run and all the "friends" are very appreciative of all that she does with social media.

CFPA: Eric is busy at the capitol. He wants us to be reaching out to our legislatures regarding bills that are coming up.

DEEP news: Matt reported that he is pushing for the house repairs. He reported that the radon system is getting re-done. He noted that the toilets will be the vault toilet and currently is looking at different models. He stated that he is looking to place 2 at this time at Goodwin and they will have year round access. He gave an update on the hazard tree removal project which will start within the next 6 months. He noted that the funds for the bush mower were moved, but is trying to get more funding put through.

Director's report: Beth reported that the trail day program deadline is Friday. She noted that the Friend's State Parks Day is next Tuesday in Hartford. This provides an opportunity to talk to legislatures and new commissioner to emphasize how important Goodwin is and how important the building is for the programs. She reported that she is working with Matt (DEEP) on projects, She noted the heaters in the museum have been repaired. She stated the Pine Acres point person has left and she has calls in to see what the status is. Beth reported that B. Johnson will return April 12 and W. Hastings starts back March 15th. Lena is still with us and switches over later. Beth noted she will be away the first week of May. She did note we need support for the festivals, community events and fairs that are coming up. She reported that she and Lena will attend the COEEA convention on March 27th. She reminded all if someone is writing a check for Friends, it need to be written FGF/CFPA.

Education/programs: Lena gave a program update for March which currently has 17 programs scheduled so far and also 2 community events. . She reported that January had 125 attendees

and February had 205 attendees. She is currently working on the Master Naturalist program applicants, which number 35. She noted if you see an event and would like to volunteer, please let her know. She also noted that she needs people to lead hikes. Lena reported that volunteer orientation is scheduled at Goodwin on April 13th at 9:30am.

Goodwin center physical plant: no report.

Trail report: Bob noted that not too much new activity has been occurring during the winter months. Charlie has been in contact with CFPA regarding their summer crew project list and has several items for the Natchaug Trail on their agenda. Work on the orange trail is on hold until Ed McGuire gives the ok. New trail map is still on hold until the orange trail is completed. Matt reported that the new seasonals start on April 26th and he will get them up to equine trail with the backhoe to assist with that project. Matt noted he needs a heads up for the trail markers for the June 1st trail run and to try to minimize the nailing to trees. Some discussion ensued and Matt suggested making the arrows permanent being the runners and bikers use the same markers.

Gardens and grounds: March 27th is a scheduled work day.

Other business: Jim reported that some people have started the trail challenge.

Lois Kelly memorial: It was noted that Lois Kelly passed away. She was a former director of Goodwin and an important part of making Goodwin a special place. It was asked what the Friends would like to do for a memorial for her. Juan will spearhead the effort.

Meeting adjourned at 2:26pm

Next meeting is May 14, 2019 at 1pm.

Respectfully submitted by Emily Logee-Savoie, secretary