

Friends of Goodwin Forest

Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2026, via Google Meeting

Present: President Lynne Warren, Secretary Linda Wenner, Treasurer David Fowler, Bill Marshall, Stan Crawford, Susan Crawford, Robert Mazzawy, Sue Hochstetter, June Powell, Emily Logee-Savoie, Laurie Gypson, Juan Sanchez, Dale and Kate May.

Lynne called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM.

Lynne summarized her meeting with the Friends of Connecticut State Parks (FCSP). Brian Wilson said there will be no money for a director. Passport to the Parks money will barely break even due to the minimum wage increase. Memorandums of understanding (MOUs) for DEEP with Friends groups are being written and will next go to DEEP's legal counsel for review. So we may not even see a copy this year. However, Brian said Friends groups will be required to have their own liability insurance and DEEP recommends that Friends officers have coverage also. The RFP (Request for Proposal) that DEEP was supposed to have ready for in December is put off until March. It will probably be looking for someone to run educational programs at Goodwin, with no money, just rules that someone must follow. Sherwood Island Friends were also told that they can no longer have volunteers teach programs as DEEP wants total control over educational content. Juan asked who was behind this change and Lynne said she is not sure but that everything has been downhill since the big staff turnover due to retirements. Also the severe restrictions seem to be in reaction to two isolated incidents involving volunteers misusing state equipment. However, it does not seem fair to punish all the Friends groups due to the actions of two individuals.

Partnership with Last Green Valley (LGV) is dead as they are looking at Church Farm in Ashford for their relocation.

Connecticut Forest and Parks Association (CFPA) is still without a director as they are still in the search process.

Bill reported that the trails are in good shape thanks to Nipmuck Dave. The Friends will be mowing this coming season. Let Gabe Zorabedian know at TrailsGoodwinForest@gmail.com if you are interested in mowing or adopting a section of trail to maintain. Gabe will arrange mower access with Matt Quinn. June pointed out that there are 3 snowshoe loop trails available and they are in good shape, as well as the parking area and porta-johns. Bill suggested that June volunteer for the Trail Run which is June 7th. June said she loved being a "watergirl" at Grand Junction. Linda said a water crew is needed for Cedar Swamp and Governor's Island this year as she has a concert that day so can't do it. Juan thought he may be available to do Governor's Island. Please let Gabe know if you can help that day.

Lynne mentioned that when she sends an email, she ccs a large list of state employees as well.

Lynne presented the slate of officers: Linda Wenner for President, Stan Crawford for Vice President, Dave Fowler for Treasurer and Emily Logee-Savoie for Secretary. There were no nominations from the floor. The vote for the election of the slate of officers as presented was unanimous with no nay votes nor abstentions.

Linda asked for any volunteers who might be interested in maintaining our webpage. No one volunteered so Lynne said Gabe had expressed an interest. Linda said she would tentatively put Gabe

down for that task, pending his agreement. We also need someone to monitor our social media (Facebook and Insta). There were no volunteers so Linda said she would take that task on herself.

Friends Day at the Capitol, date TBA in March. Bill said he would do it and he has the displays that we use. He will check with Jim Giana to see if he will attend also.

Trail Run: Bill read Gabe's notes: Planning is underway as registration opens in mid-February. The Facebook page needs to direct to the Trail Run and the Friends web page will have information such as trail maps. Volunteers are needed for parking, aid stations, set-up and clean-up, and event site work. Message us at RunGoodwinTrails@gmail.com if you can help.

New Business: We need a place to store our trail equipment locally. Bob suggested asking for space at the Hampton Fire Department on Old West Route Six for us to build a small shed for the Sears lawn tractor and truck box with trail tools storage. Stan agreed to contact First Selectman Allen Cahill and Fire Chief Richard Schenk to see if they can spare us some space. Lynne said we still have access to the garden shed at Goodwin. Linda will measure the garden shed to determine if our equipment can fit. We need to take an inventory of CFPAs and our equipment. There is a DR mower in the state's garage but it was determined that that is state property and not ours.

Next meeting date Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 1 PM, at Hampton Town Hall Community Room.

Motion to adjourn at 2:04 PM by June, seconded by Emily.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Wenner.