

Friends of Goodwin Forest

Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2026

Present: President Linda Wenner, Vice President Stan Crawford, Secretary Emily Logee Savoie, Treasurer David Fowler, Bob Mazzawy, Jim Giana, Steve Curry, Clare Cain, Joey Listro. Michael Ross stopped by to introduce himself and the crew of seasonal workers for this summer.

Minutes of April 14, 2026, were reviewed and a motion to accept was made.

DEEP Update: Michael Ross, the Director of Education for 3 of the parks, including Goodwin, introduced himself and 5 of his seasonal employees. He stated that 2 of the seasonal workers will be at Goodwin 4-5 days, with one other floating on occasion. They will provide programs during the week and on Saturday. He noted that we will have access to the house when staff are present, but if the house is needed, then to email him or his staff at Michael.P.Ross@ct.gov. Linda told him to let us know of any programs and we can advertise on our site and he reciprocated for us regarding programs and events. He noted they will continue with school programs, which last year had 1200 students. Linda asked about including the Windham Schools, and he said the Friends can reach out to them. Another question was raised using the Project Learning Tree, and he said they will utilize it using a modified version. He wants to do the programs to bring in the public. Mike also reported that they have a volunteer who will be working in the gardens, and if anyone wants to help her, that would be welcomed. Emily asked if she had set hours/days, and if so, she could try to coordinate Master Gardeners/helpers to give assistance. Stan asked about access to the house for our event "Feel Good Friday", and Mike gave the okay, as long as there is a staff person present.

Treasurer Report: Dave reported that the balance as of end of April is \$57,633.92. There were two large expenditures, T-shirts for the trail run and a guest lecturer. Clare noted that we will get an ongoing regular financial report. Linda noted we now have our federal EIN number and once the Bylaws are accepted, she will proceed with the state number for 501c3 status.

Trail Run: Linda read the trail run report from Gabe, who was unable to attend. “As of 5/25/26, there are 142 runners for the 10k, and 49 for the 30K. If it is like last year, we had additional sign ups after 5/25, so we possibly could have 200+ runners. 63 T shirts were sold at registration.” He noted we need 3 more parking attendants on Sunday June 7th. They are likely only needed for about 3 hours. Any interest should be directed to Brendan Kane at brkane05@gmail.com

Trails Report: Linda also read the trails report submitted by Gabe. “Ongoing trail maintenance prior to Trails Day and the Goodwin Trail Run. The lower R/W trail has blowdowns and 1 hazard tree. DEEP has been notified of the hazard tree. Awaiting response from DEEP to the status of clearing the hazard. There is active logging in the area of Cedar Swamp Rd and Dan Evans, DEEP forester, has assured us that there will be no impact on the trail run.” CFPA will have a summer crew working on the wet area of the Natchaug Trail between Potter Road parking lot and the Airline Trail. This will include strategic placement of stones to harden the trail and new bog bridges. Clare noted that the crew will be camping at Goodwin while this work is going on. The project starts during the first week of June, and Stan noted it is a good learning opportunity. Our mower deck is at Gabe’s shop for sharpening.

Membership: Linda noted that membership renewal/sign up for FGF is all set, thanks to CFPA. She will take care of stuffing envelopes.

Non-profit status: Linda presented the Bylaws with some minor changes. Motion made and accepted to send out revised Bylaws draft to membership for review and any further changes. We will then vote on the Bylaws at the next meeting.

CFPA: New Executive Director Joey Listro, gave a brief introduction and talked about his background. He has been in the position for 6 weeks and is meeting all staff and groups. He will be given a tour of the Center after the meeting.

Glen Newcombe memorial bike racks: Linda presented pictures of the two bike racks that will be purchased with the donations. She also presented the idea for the logo (FGF) and statement on the rack “In memory of Glen Newcombe.” Linda will get Matt’s permission for placement and if there are additional costs

involved. It was suggested that if memorial money permits, we should be able to purchase 2 more racks. It will depend on how much expense is involved to secure them against theft.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10pm. **Next meeting on July 14, 2026, 1pm at Goodwin.**