

Friends of Goodwin Forest

Meeting Minutes of August 22, 2024 at Goodwin Conservation Center

Present: President, Lynne Warren, Vice-President Lynn Kochiss, Treasurer David Fowler, Stan Crawford, Jim Giana, Beth Bernard, Bill Marshall, Gabe Zorabedian

Lynne W. Called the meeting to order at 1:03

Motion to accept the amended minutes from May and minutes from July. Approved

Treasurer's report:

Currently, accounting from CFPA states that our balance is approximately \$44,352 but the records from FGF show that the amount should be closer to \$58,000. Beth Bernard has volunteered to attend a meeting with CFPA and their accountant once we are a 501c(3). Stan suggested doing an equipment inventory when we formally separate.

Center update:

Lynne W. Attended a meeting with DEEP and The Last Green Valley to discuss the proposal for TLGV to move to the Goodwin Conservation Center. TLGV has offered to invest money and take care of the property management as well as raise funds to build the education center that was proposed in 2012. DEEP. Is interested but needs to check potential legal issues. DEEP will schedule another meeting in September, after Labor Day.

Membership:

162 current members listed. 59% are current with dues. Two new members since July.

Trails:

TRAIL MAINTENANCE COMPLETED/ONGOING:

- * Trail mowing for the 2024 season has been great. Thank you Linda, Glen, Dale, and Stan.
- * Black Spruce Pond water level has returned to normal. The Natchaug Trail is easily passable now.
- *The area prone to wash-out near Grand Junction has maintained to stay in good condition since the Friends filled in the damage and cut out berms upstream of the damaged area to allow for better drainage.

FUTURE TRAIL WORK:

- * The Annual end-of-season water-sealing of the Governor's Island Platform and Benches will occur within the next month or so. Date will be announced soon.
- *B/Y and B/R trails to be cut back this week.

*An Eagle Scout that had joined in on a post-storm trail audit in 2023 has reached out to us again looking for another Community Service Assignment. The assignment has to be project focused, as opposed to routine maintenance. This can be a trail project or something in the Garden area. Contact Gabe with any suggestions.

*Since Adam is no longer with DEEP, the Friends group should be aware that we can host group hikes to keep events on the calendar. Reach out to Lynne Warren to get your group hike on the calendar.

Master Naturalist Program:

Master Naturalist Program will begin in October. 28 participants were selected out of 58 applicants. Lynne W., Lynn K, Elizabeth Merrow, Andy Bicking will meet on August 27th to discuss CFPA's role in the program and potential for future development.

Forestry Day:

Parking still uncertain at EastConn. Local food trucks were either disinterested or committed elsewhere for Sept. 28. Stan mentioned two local caterers and Lynne W. will check with Kristen Bellantuono from No Child Left Inside (NCLI) to see what the state would require for using them. We are waiting for NCLI to provide a list of stations and how many extra volunteers we may need. Lynne W. made a motion to spend up to \$500 for forestry day supplies; Jim Giana seconded; everyone approved.

By-Laws

Draft by-laws were discussed and edited. Lynne W. will send the revisions to the attorney and share the updated version with the membership for their review.

Meeting adjourned 2:58

Next meeting Thursday, October 10 @ 1:00 pm