

Friends of Goodwin Forest

July 12, 2022

Present: J. Giana, G. Newcombe, B. Marshall, L. Warren, W. Hastings, E. Logee-Savoie, L. Werner, L. Kochiss, E. Horning-Kane, B. Bernard, J. Sanchez

Meeting was called to order at 1:04pm. Minutes of May 10, 2022 were approved as amended.

Treasurer report: Bill gave the treasurer report for Bruce. A review of the income was done and noted to have an increase. Bill noted that the expenses were not in yet. We currently have a balance of \$56,564. Report was unanimously accepted.

Membership update: Jim reported that we had one renewal, we currently have 100 Friend members and 131 dual members, making a total of 231 and 98 of these are fully paid. There were \$2310 in donations not including trail run. Report was unanimously accepted.

Social media/marketing: Lynne provided us with statistics regarding Web usage, Facebook and Instagram. She noted that the trail run page was the most visited followed by our landing page and plant sale. She reported that for direct emails 50-55% open their email notices for FGF meetings. Lynne also reported that we have not done a newsletter since Spring of 2020 and suggested we should do one solely focusing on the activities of Friends and promoting volunteer events. Report was accepted unanimously.

Garden report/plant sale: Warren reported that the plant sale is doing well. He also reported that the list of volunteers needs to be gone through to determine if all of those persons still want to be contacted or are even interested. Discussion ensued. It was suggested that a volunteer administrator be look into to help with volunteer management and peruse the list. More to follow on this.

CFPA news & updates: Eric not available. It was noted the volunteer fest is July 27th at Peoples State Forest.

Deep news & updates: Matt not available.

Director's report: Beth reported that we will be sharing a Naturalist with other parks. The Master Naturalist Program just wrapped up, and one of the Naturalist

volunteered to redo the mural as outreach project. She noted there is a program involving nature journaling, where a poet gets matched up with a state park. There is a local poet, Penelope, who is volunteering to write about Goodwin. This poet would also do a nature writing workshop for Windham 8th graders, but will need the Friends to sponsor a bus for transport. (Sometime in the Fall, date to be determined.) A motion was made and passed unanimously. Beth reported that the US Forester grant that is used for scholarships for the Master Naturalist is done in 2023, therefore we will need another source of income to supply the monies needed for the scholarships in the 20/23 Spring and Fall programs. Also, a suggestion was made to raise the rates for the Master Naturalist programs. Discussion ensued and it was determined that Beth would bring the budget to the next meeting. Beth also reported that volunteers (4) with 2 staff, will be here at Goodwin from the court services programs to help in the gardens. Report unanimously accepted.

Education/program report: Eoin gave a brief summary of events and programs that took place. He noted all events had good attendance. He also reported that he is trying to get more children programs up and going. Discussion ensued and suggestions made. Report unanimously accepted.

Goodwin Center physical plant & maintenance: Mike unavailable. It was noted that we need to push the legislatures for support for a full-time position.

Trails report: Glen gave the report for Bob. He reported that a work party did final dressings of the surfaces on red trail and red white trail to get ready for June 5th trail run. Goodwin hosted a CFPA summer crew for a project to improve the Natchaug Trail section from Goodwin to Airline trail. He noted that they have requested CFPA summer crew return later this summer to assist with adding gravel to 8 wet sections along Pine Acres Pond. Due to the reinstatement of RTP funding we were able to purchase stones/gravel. Glen reported that the NIMBA bike event had 100 participants. Report unanimously accepted.

Trail run: Bill reported that was by far the best year yet. There were 209 participants and income from the run plus sales of T shirts, sponsors and donations totaled \$8231. The expenses were \$3172 leaving a net of \$5,059. Bill thanked all the volunteers who made the run possible and all of their hard work. Report unanimously accepted.

Lending library: Lynn reported that books are being taken and others are being donated. She would like to have a ribbon cutting ceremony. Report unanimously accepted.

Feel good Friday & trail run volunteer recognition: Jim made a suggestion we have a “Feel Good Friday” with an abbreviated meeting prior, for Septembers FGF meeting. Bill also wants to invite the volunteers for the trail run to attend. A food truck was suggested instead of bringing dishes. Date TBA.

Other business: A suggestion was made to seek out volunteers for an invasive plant project. Discussion ensued. Bill will reach out to Mike and it was suggested that a workshop on invasives be held prior to project.

Meeting adjourned at 2:46pm. **Next meeting TBA.** Respectfully submitted by E. Logee-Savoie.