

## **FWT Presidents Annual Report 2020- Anna Taylor**

Thank you to the Board and Members for your continued support and passion for FWT and our mission. It has been a privilege to work with you this year. In our country, and our community navigating our way through a pandemic has proven challenging to say the least. Given those circumstances FWT remains consistent and strong in our membership and our finances, as our Membership Director and Treasurer will report. This year our trails were elevated from a beautiful, peaceful places for individuals and families to explore, and enjoy, to an integral part of our health and wellbeing. I would argue that this has always been the case, however this year, in a pandemic, as we saw with the heavy use of our trails, open space has become critical to our health. The trails quickly became a place to disconnect, be safe and take a deep breath. Thank you to all our Trail Stewards and Trail Chair for your diligent, incredible work in maintaining our trails.

Our accomplishments this year include the following:

In maintaining Existing Trails: we chose to postpone our shared work parties for 2020, safety being our top priority and in following NYS guidelines limiting large group gatherings. As restrictions lessened, we did move forward with small group Trail work parties, limiting participation to our Trail Stewards and Board Members. Our Trail Stewards identifying areas of greatest need, our Trails Chair Craig, arranged the project and our small groups jumped in. We completed very rewarding projects, where improvements were significant, specifically John Ungar Trail and the Hojack Trail.

In building new trails, during the spring and summer we continued to plan the new trail network for the Open Space along State Road between Salt Road and the Philips Road. In our September Board meeting we approved a new Eagle Scout Project for this trail, the scout's proposal was a significant first step in the development of this new trail.

In promoting FWT, given the pandemic were unable to participate in most community events as planned this year, however we were able to move forward with a couple. The Scavenger Hunt at North Ponds Parks offered us exposure to families and new FWT trail enthusiasts. We continued the tradition of our Hot Cocoa Hike, in a modified format, with great feedback from participants. Also, our Social Media presence continues to grow on both Facebook and Instagram.

Another unique opportunity to promote both the trails and FWT was a project brought to us by the Webster Library. We were approached to participate in their exciting video series called, Let's Explore Webster! They have chosen to highlight our trails and have asked for our input and participation. We have completed two videos to date, for the John Unger Trail and FMCP. We look forward to working with the Webster Library to complete the series in 2021.

Lastly, we had the great opportunity to Kick off and develop our relationship and communication paths with Webster's New Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, Chris Bilow and Parks Director, Glenn Morrell. We look forward to regular engagement with them and working to support each other in our shared goals moving forward.

Thank you again for your passion and commitment to FWT. Webster has some of the most beautiful trails in the county and state because of your excellent work. I look forward to working together in 2021 to maintain and grow FWT.