

FWT Board Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2021

Attending: Denise Bilsback, John Boettcher, Catherine DuBreck, Bud Gearhart, Russell Harrison, Ron Happ, Hal Harris, Craig Hurlbut, Ken Merkey, Emily Pettit, Mark Pettit, Bill Polito, Steve Snyder, Anna Taylor, Eric Turberg

Guests – Mark and Emily who coordinated the scavenger hunt, Catherine who is helping with trail mapping, and Russell who is sharing his Web expertise.

A. Administrative Tasks

1. Approve/Change Agenda – Add discussion of brochures to membership and add Hickory Bark repair discussion.
2. Approve Minutes from January Meeting - Approved
3. Membership Status: Denise Bilsback: Detailed report distributed via email to Board.
 - Total membership: 230 (3 new in January)
 - FWT brochures at trail kiosks driving membership. Thanks to Bud for stocking them.
 - Brochures.
 - Down to ~60 brochures left, and copy doesn't include Anna's name, State Road trails, or map updates.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Denise to update with Anna's name. Order 1000 (~ 1-year supply) in full color at \$472 (less \$100 donation from printer). State Road and trail updates to be done before next order.
4. Review of Treasurer Report: Bill Polito – Detailed report distributed to Board via email.
 - Total January donations: \$1357 – double Jan. 2020.
 - \$300 in new donations for Michael Johnson.
 - Scavenger hunt donation = \$302.
 - \$22,741 balance at month end.
 - IRS return filed, but not accepted because of delayed federal filing start date. Because return was filed twice, it was paid twice, so Bill requested refund.
 - Question: Are there requirements to spend down fund? No, per Bill's review of 503(c) rules.
5. Social Media: Ken Merkey
 - Engagement: 733 FB, 228 Instagram.
 - Ken posting lots of photos, plus town video of plowing P&R trail.
 - Anyone can send Ken photos to be posted.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Anna and Norma need to transition Instagram account to Ken.
6. Website Inquiry Summary – Norma Platt:
 - Russell looking to volunteer. Plans for him to assist with Website design and Craig has added him to the list of folks to help with trail work.
 - Request for Black and Pink trails added to Map of Big Woods.

- Request to help with Hojack trail.
 - What about bikes in the big woods? The donation covenant request from donor of the land limited bike use. P&R will add signs to the trails. Possibility to add a sign about an alternate route to Pellet Road, south to trail through small meadow, to Whiting Road. Also add information to the Website. **ACTION ITEM:** Norma to document where bikes not permitted and forward to P&R.
 - Information from Shari, past president, with news accounts about FWT and trails, plus vintage photos, including of Hojack trail c. 1990s, with nearly impassable trail. **ACTION ITEM:** John to include information in next newsletter.
7. Communications Update: John Boettcher – Newsletter submission request coming.
8. Habitat Committee Update: Norma Platt
- Tree planting. Norma sent a note to Kevin Farrell at the Genesee Land Trust, asking him to speak to us about the Trust’s tree planting at Island Cottage Woods. Presentation to be scheduled for March or April, possibly in person.
 - Question: Can we have smaller groups, or individuals, doing habitat work? Yes! **ACTION ITEM:** Norma and Anna to work on a proposal for that.
9. Website Updates – Steve Snyder
- Website Refresh Committee: Steve working on kickoff meeting so the committee can hear Andrew’s proposal. Particular concerns from Don about site being not secure. Board needs information on what is the risk, and what would the cost be to remedy. **ACTION ITEM:** Steve to get information to the Board for next meeting.
 - Question: Are we still using Site 5? Bill has invoice for \$215. Denise confirmed that it is being used, as set up by Don, but needs to verify if it’s for 1 year or 2.

B. Main Topics

1. Welcome Russell Harrison, Emily Pettit, and Catherine DuBreck new Volunteers!
 - Russell is a freshman in nuclear engineering at Penn State with interest in trails and Website development skills.
 - Catherine has been helping with mapping, expanding knowledge on the Board of how to do it and participating with the actual mapping.
 - Mark and Emily are fairly new Webster residents and Mark is an Adirondack 46r, and Emily is a member of Prosar, both with an interest in expanding involvement of kids in the outdoors. They leveraged the scavenger hunt fundraiser idea from England parks and plan to host another hunt later in the year.
2. Waivers (Parks & Rec) and Conflict of Interest:
 - Waivers needed from Board members and trail stewards. All need to send signed to Norma, who will forward them to Glenn Morell at Parks & Rec for record keeping. **ACTION ITEM:** All Sign, Scan, and Email to Norma.
 - Waivers for those who do work parties to be managed by Craig.

3. Planning:

- Buckner Property. No news. Chris Bilow was to set up meeting with Barry Deane on status. **ACTION ITEM:** Hal will check on status.
- State Road Property:
 - New volunteer who lives near State Road property wants to help with mapping. Connected with Hal and Eric. He will be at March Board meeting.
 - New overflow for the dam was created, but there's lots of seepage. Further evaluation needed in spring.
 - Need to connect pond to 4-mile creek with bridge – scout project planned.
 - Still waiting on parking. Chris and Glenn at P&R have been involved. Probably planned for mid-year 2021 or 2022.
- New Trails. Hal reported that the Ecklers and the town have agreed on price for land, to be closed on in spring. 19 acres to be added to Four Mile Creek in the spring. Plans include connecting to the red and yellow trail with a new half mile, including nice overlooks. A bridge will be needed.
- New land acquisition. A potential donor is looking to land that could be added to WRNP or the Hojack trail. Three potential tracts: 5 acres next to John Unger trail (heard back from the owner with interest); adjacent to WRNP (owner would like more information); and the Kiwanas club property. If it works out, FWT will work with town on land acquisition.

4. Maintain:

- Tree-planting project - [see below](#)
- Review projects remaining from 2020. Repair Hickory Bark.
 - Eric created an estimate of \$1100, including replacing all railings and the bench, some decking, and a couple joists. Norma reported that the Friends of Webster Public Library will not fund the repairs.
 - Funding by FWT approved by Board voice vote. Eric will coordinate repair work days, expected to be 2 weekends.
- Brainstorm 2021 Projects: Identify potential Eagle Scout Projects
 - Hickory Bark.
 - Big Woods trail benching.
 - FMC - ideas for gravel and maybe boardwalks.
 - Choyida trail needs gravel and maybe a drainage pipe. Need to assess in the spring.
 - Hojack – spring cleanup.
 - Hojack - 200 feet north of Drumm Road towards Vosberg, south side has water flowing onto the trail. That needs remediation.
 - Hojack between Drumm and Van Alstyne. John and Bud to plan.
 - WRNP. White trail cut-through chute needs to be remedied.
 - WRNP gravel needed in certain areas.
 - Trail building for state road from pond to FMC.

- Placeholder for Buckner property.

Questions:

- Do we invite the public to participate or keep it to the Board? Optimistic for summer workgroups, if Covid numbers stay low and with some precautions. Require masks. Keep groups small. **ACTION ITEM:** Craig to follow up with a statement to add to the waiver about expectations.
- If we acquire new properties, will those take precedence over existing property projects? Norma feels strongly about fixing White trail this year. Schedule will balance both.

ACTION ITEM: Craig to develop a schedule for all projects.

- **Additional projects**
 - Tree planting is a long-term project that should be moved to 2022 and beyond with dedicated funding.
 - Brochure boxes. Norma suggested getting a kids' group or scouts to build boxes if Larry could create a template and instructions. **ACTION ITEM:** Hal to talk with Larry and Rich about making a couple boxes now and then draw up plans and materials list.

5. Mapping: status on Mapping Team

- Update from Jan. 15 meeting.
 - Additional information and training needed for how to use software.
 - Follow-up meeting needed for late February. **ACTION ITEM:** Anna will schedule.
 - Goal is to get Pink and Black trails, plus Hickory Bark on Website first.
 - Sample Gosnell map from Catherine was great. Need to get Board members to do it with training session, after Craig works on Black and Pink.
- Hal mentioned that the #TrailsROC site has some trails incorrectly listed as part of FMC, including some on private property. Catherine noted that we might be able to transmit trail data files to #TrailsROC for updates, possibly including a property line layer on the maps. **ACTION ITEMS:** Anna to check with #TrailsROC to have them removed. Craig to work on adding property line layer to maps, working with Catherine if needed. Catherine to research how .gpx files can be uploaded.
- Norma mentioned that need the White trail near Pellet needs rerouting or some other work, then need to map it. **ACTION ITEM:** Norma and Craig collaborate with Ken (a biker) to conduct on-site review and determine plans.

6. Promote:

- Scavenger Hunt Jan. 23, 2021 at Chiyoda Trail: Emily and Bud - Well attended for a cold day! Chiyoda Trail was plowed. 62 kids registered; 46 attended. Senior living center had folks doing it. Friends Table staffed by Bud.

- Scavenger Hunt April 24 at WRNP. Spring theme, need to determine which trail, of limited length.
- Review any additional events for 2021
 - Fire and Ice Winter event on February 20 from 6-8 pm. Julie Schillaci, Recreation Supervisor, working with Anna.
 - Two guided walks on the Chiyoda Trail that evening
 - Crafts, maybe some physical distance issues.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Anna to reach out to Julie, sharing concerns about doing it in the dark, but generally happy to help.
 - Music in the Park. Hal established contacts from Carmen Gumina, but need a proposed location, time of year. **ACTION ITEM:** Anna to suggest events for the Saturdays before Mother's Day and Father's Day.
 - Wegmans Passport 2021.
 - Set for Spring launch, but need to do it when trails are drier in May or June.
 - Friends Table needed in the parking lot.
 - Location. Hold event on multiple trails to spread out participants. Also pick a location where you get multiple check-ins from one park, such as Whiting Road and Midnight Trail.
 - Wegmans is redoing the artwork of the passports. Need to get it uploaded to the P&R Website, and include a link on FWT site to Passport site.
 - Adding locations. Norma suggested a post on Hojack, but there is one in North Ponds and one at Vosburg, just off the Hojack.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Denise to follow up with new contact for Wegmans regarding getting artwork and the process for a new post.
 - Possible orienteering event in the summer. Maybe on the orange trail at WRNP. This could move to 2022 if schedule is too full.
 - Hot Cocoa event in the fall.

7. Open Discussion - none

Adjourn!