

FWT Board Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2021

Attendees: Denise Billsback, John Boettcher, Bud Gearhart, Hal Harris, Craig Hurlbut, Dennis Kuhn, Ken Merkey, Norma Platt, Bill Polito, Matthew Steiner, Anna Taylor, Sarah White

A. Administrative Tasks

1. Approve/Change Agenda - [Add status of Hojack trail at Lake Road](#)
2. Approve Minutes from March Meeting - [Added clarification on Chiyoda trail signage](#)
3. Membership Status - Denise Billsback: [Detailed report distributed via email to Board.](#)
 - [Total memberships – 207 \(down from 220 in February\)](#)
 - [\\$80 for renewal membership](#)
 - [Work hours – Discussion of some hours missing from tracking](#)
4. Review of Treasurer Report - Bill Polito: [Detailed report distributed via email to Board.](#)
 - [\\$137 in PayPal deposits](#)
 - [A few expenses to be covered](#)
 - [\\$3700 total received for the Johnson family; need direction from family for how to spend](#)
5. Social Media – Ken Merkey
 - [Working to connect FB to IG account](#)
 - [FB likes increased by 54 since January to 814](#)
 - [Engagement is as high as 200 on each post; average of 30 reactions](#)
 - [66% of FB followers are women](#)
 - [First work day not posted, but plan to do them in the future](#)
 - [Should we allow followers to send photos to Ken?? – Voice vote yes](#)
6. Website Inquiry Summary – Norma Platt
 - [Inquiry from cub scout leader looking for volunteer project – sent information about upcoming workday](#)
 - [Question about large gravel on Hojack – because town no longer funds the gravel, suggested he make a donation to be used for fixing it.](#)
7. Communications Update- John Boettcher
 - [NL sent out and favorably received; shared with Parks & Rec, Village and Town](#)
 - [Email sent today about work day. John expressed some concerns that we might have too many volunteers for first work day, and suggested we not broadcast them through social media at this time, but rely on partnerships with organizations.](#)
8. Habitat Committee Update - Norma Platt: [No report this month](#)
9. Website Updates – Steve Snyder: [No report this month, but Website was updated with events and Board meetings.](#)

B. Main Topics

1. FWT, Spring Newsletter - Complete

2. Waivers (Parks & Rec) and Conflict of Interest:

- Waivers needed for 5 stewards or board needed. Final follow up to be done by Craig and/or Anna.
- Covid wording on the volunteer waiver. Norma revised waiver with wording from Craig, and updated copies going to the Board.

3. Trails Planning & Maintenance: - Trail Projects 2021:

- Proposed Project List - sent via Google docs, but Craig will follow up with emailed version
- Covid statement for the waiver – see above
- Meeting with Glenn Morrell:
 - General get-to-know you meeting; no takeaways for FWT.
 - Town standardizing signage and benches.
 - Estimate provided for gravel needs so town can buy in bulk.
Outstanding question as to who pays for it, but FWT expects town to.
- April Trail Work Party - two projects: State Road and Hojack trail day this weekend.
- FMC Cleanup by Webster Lacrosse Team, coordinated by Dennis Kuhn. Team of 8- to 12-year-olds with 3 players per adult to work May 1 from 9 to 11. Project list: trash pickup; sweep boardwalks, benches, bridges, and platforms; mulch the blue trail; and loosen tree signs. P&R will deliver the mulch to the parking lot. Parents will provide wheelbarrows and rakes, shovels, and brooms, plus water and snacks. Craig to help direct project from a high level. Waiver needed by parents and students.

- New Signs and Sign Replacement

- Denise requested signs for Bird Sanctuary, Four Mile Creek, Pellet Rd, WRNP
- Others needed? Three needed:
 - “Foot traffic only, no bikes” on each end of the Big Woods (replicate the one on Hojack at Vosburg). Norma to send design to Denise.
 - North side on the ridge, near the passport sign

5. Tree Project: What can we do in 2021? Big Picture ideas?

- Proposal: Create additional committee to determine priorities, path forward, and funding.
- Partner with town? Probably not.
- Reach out to membership. John to draft message to go out under Anna’s name, with plan for getting priorities and initial plan done this year.

6. Promote:

- Music in the Park- Mother's Day/Father's Day weekend day – Per Anna, too late for Mother's Day since no response, but looking at Father's Day/
- Wegmans Passport 2021. Trail mapping update:
 - Parks & Rec requested updated Map for Webster Park. Anna to follow up with them that FWT does not maintain these trails.
- Library Partnership - Videos, update – Anna T.
 - YouTube views: FMC 96 views; Hickory Bark 231; John Unger 133
 - Request to get brochures and passports in library. Sent.
 - Want to do another video of Chiyoda, but after mud season. Denise will work on it.
- Scavenger Hunt
 - April 24 at WRNP from 9 to 11am - Emily Pettit organizing it.
 - Anna to staff Friends Table with Hal. Anna to pick up brochures from Craig.

7. Open Discussion

- Lake Road project
 - Starts at Pellet Road, east to Bay road. Part 1 is the east end to Shipbuilder's Creek. Second part will go to Bay Road, including removal of railroad bridge.
 - Norma received plans to regrade trail to road level. Norma to send plans to Board via email.
 - Original plan to extend trail on north side of Lake Road will not happen.
 - Lake Road will have five-foot shoulders to ease bike traffic from trail.
- Peter Elder took ownership of the Kiosk at 250 on Hojack a couple years ago, upon his request. No content has been added to date. Hal/Anna to follow up.
- FMC cars. Question to add signage on the trail with information about the cars and add information to kiosk and Website. Proposal to make a single sign to see response. Dennis to create sign.
- Trail projects:
 - Repairs to Hickory Bark platform. Eric has a group for this.
 - Eric has a scout lined up for bridge at State Road, probably in May.