

## **FWT Board Meeting - Minutes May 10, 2021**

**Attendees:** Denise Billsback, John Boettcher, Ron Happ, Russell Harrison, Craig Hurlbut, Dennis Kuhn, Ken Merkey, Norma Platt, Bill Polito, Steve Snyder, Matthew Steiner, Anna Taylor, Eric Turberg, Sarah White

### **A. Administrative Tasks**

1. Approve/Change Agenda – [Add update on mapping](#)
2. Approve Minutes from April Meeting - [OK](#)
3. Guests Introductions – Chris Streeter (volunteer at State Road), Erik Stephany
4. Membership Status - Denise Billsback: [Detailed report distributed to Board via email](#)
  - Total memberships: 215, up from 207 in April
    - New members heard about FWT at Scavenger Hunt, Parks and Rec, brochure, and Google
  - Work hours: 107 hours, much of it at Hojack Trail workday
5. Review of Treasurer Report - Bill Polito: [Detailed report distributed to Board via email](#)
  - \$839 in new funds, including \$255 from Scavenger Hunt
  - Tracking ahead of 2020 YOY
  - Expenses included new brochures and Site 5 (Website host)
6. Social Media – Ken Merkey:
  - FB followers: 827, up from 814 in April)
  - Post on workday had biggest engagement, including many shares
  - Collaboration with Parks & Rec is going well
  - Decisions about publicizing workdays:
    - Do **not** post on social media; recruit volunteers from membership.
    - Do include in events on Website. **ACTION ITEM:** Steve to add workdays.
7. Website Inquiry Summary – Norma Platt:
  - Cub Scout pack volunteer inquiry – directed to Hojack trail workday.
  - Mowing and the effect on butterflies – responded to with information about meadow management, habitat preservation, mowing timing, and butterfly lifecycle.
  - Request to link Genesee Land Trust from Big Woods page.
  - Hojack trail surface west of Hard Road – Notified trail stewards of concern.
  - Overflow parking at Whiting Road – Directed to park safely on Whiting Road, and a request to help at workdays.
8. Communications Update - John Boettcher:

- Press release about workday sent to *Webster Herald*.
- Upcoming workday on May 15
  - Trail benching into Big Woods – Heavy tools needed
  - Reroute of White Trail in Whiting Road - **postponed**
  - Hickory Bark repairs

9. Habitat Committee Update- Norma Platt: Garlic Mustard removal at Bird Sanctuary Trail on Friday, May 14.

## B. Main Topics

1. Eagle Scout Presentation: New Four Mile Creek Bridge at St Road Preserve - Erik Stephany

- Detailed presentation given by Erik, including cost estimates, labor plans, and contingency plans for timing of the work.
- Requests:
  - May need volunteers to help with work requiring power tools.
  - Cover costs of the materials.
  - May need advice

Approval of requests by vote of the Board.

2. Trails Planning & Maintenance. Guest Chris Streeter, Webster Village resident and frequent trail user, is looking to help with trail work.

- Trail Projects 2021:

- April Trail Work Parties - Feedback/Report, Craig, Eric
  - State Road: Productive morning building bridge and clearing trail, included new volunteers.
  - Hojack trail cleanup near North Ponds Park had several groups help, including 27 people. Lots of trash cleaned up, on first clean up in 2 years.
- FMC Cleanup, Webster Lacrosse Team, Dennis Kuhn
  - Mission Accomplished! Parent involvement and advance planning made for success despite young age of team and some rain.
  - 40 to 50 people participated.
- May Workday Saturday 05/15 Gosnell & Big Woods, Craig, John. 9 am
  - Trail benching from Pellet Road.
- Hickory Bark Repair with Eric, Saturday & Sunday 05/15 and 05/16
  - Need both days. Helpers needed to carry lumber in the morning. Start at 8am.
  - \$1300 materials cost

- WRNP – Trail Steward opening

- Jim Laudani is no longer able to be a steward, so need someone to help Ron. Work required is mowing trail edges on Green and Brown trails.

- Recruitment. **ACTION ITEM:** Anna to coordinate including solicitation on FB and sending to membership.
- 3. Tree Project: Committee formation update- John, Norma, Sarah
  - Notice ready to send to membership to recruit members. Need Board approval.
    - Approved by Board. **ACTION ITEM:** Anna to send to membership.
  - Plan is to get volunteers, then divide group to size the project, brainstorm ideas, identify achievable goals, and get Board approval for plans.
  - Board noted need to partner with Town, arborists, Genesee Land Trust, colleges.
- 4. Promote:
  - Music in the Park- Mother's Day/Father's Day weekend day – Response from WCSD - Anna T.  
Music director declined for this year, but may be able to do it in the future.
  - Wegmans Passport 2021: Trail Mapping update, Norma, Craig, Catherine and Anna
    - Still need a follow-up meeting. Need maps for Passport and for Website. **ACTION ITEM:** Someone to schedule meeting.
    - Some questions about how the downloaded maps work on phone/downloaded from Website.
    - **ACTION ITEM:** Craig/Norma to send Steve PDF of Hickory Bark trail for Website.
  - Scavenger Hunt- April 24, 2021 WRNP - Friends Table - Thank you Dennis and Sarah - Feedback/Report
    - Good turnout throughout the morning.
    - \$255 raised.
    - Next Hunt planned for autumn.
  - Website Updates – Steve Snyder/Anna Taylor and Russell
    - Refresh in process, not an overhaul.
    - Mapping updated.
    - Older dates to be removed.
    - Include workdays, events, minutes
    - Add some up-to-date photos
    - **ACTION ITEM:** Everyone should review the Website and send Steve any needed updates, copy in Anna.
- 5. Open Space
  - Eckler Property! - Anna
    - Town will purchase the property.
    - Thanks to Dennis and Hal for their work to make it happen.
  - Meeting with Chris Bilow and Barry Deane – Town project review committee that meets monthly to advise Planning Board. Suggested that FWT be part of that group. Craig is the representative.

- Open Space updates – Anna: Resident wants to acquire and donate property for open space. Dialog continuing. Brought ideas to Chris and Barry for Town.

#### 6. Open Discussion

- Big Woods - White trail currently has short section on private land (Chris Bowen's property). Ron is in discussion with the owner to sell the "slice." If owner doesn't sell, Town will need to look into liability. Also considering a revocable trust to allow public use (model from Victor Trails). Might need to reroute trail if can't reach agreement.

Adjourn!