

## **FWT Board Meeting - Minutes June 14, 2021**

**Attendees:** Denise Bilsback, John Boettcher, Ron Happ, Hal Harris, Russell Harrison, Dennis Kuhn, Ken Merkey, Norma Platt, Linda Siple, Steve Snyder, Anna Taylor, Sarah White

### **A. Administrative Tasks**

1. Approve/Change Agenda – updated items about trail projects and stewards
2. Approve Minutes from May Meeting - OK
3. Membership Status- Denise Bilsback: updated status distributed to Board via email
  - Total memberships: 215
  - Volunteer work hours: 116
4. Review of Treasurer Report- Bill Polito: updated status distributed to Board via email
  - \$325 income
  - \$1229 expenses
5. Social Media – Ken Merkey:
  - 834 FB followers, up 7 from April
  - High of 1000+ interactions from McAllister Sign post; 400+ for Hickory Bark status
6. Website Inquiry Summary – Norma Platt
  - Penfield Trails hike in FMCP.
  - Town offer of meet and greet with Supervisor Flaherty.
  - Thanks to the person who found and turned in dog treat bag.
7. Communications Update- John Boettcher
  - Notice of workday went out this week
8. Habitat Committee Update- Norma Platt
  - 4 work days completed, with 5 to 12 participants each
  - Bird Sanctuary trail (garlic mustard removal), John Unger trail (garlic mustard and autumn olive removal, hackberry sapling planting, and trillium grove protection), Hojack trail (garlic mustard removal and Japanese knotweed treatment), and FMCP (yellow trail invasives removal)

### **B. Main Topics**

1. Trails Planning & Maintenance:
  - Trail Projects 2021:
    - 5/15 Hickory Bark Platform- Repaired! - Eric
    - 5/15 Pellet Rd WRNP Trail Workday - Ron
    - 5/15 Gosnell & Big Woods, Craig, John

- WRNP property line and trail path still needs follow up from town – **ACTION ITEM:** Anna to follow up on revocable permit
  - Hickory Bark Deck Repair follow up - Dead tree removal
    - Lots of dead trees that need to be removed to avoid a recurrence of damage
    - **ACTION ITEM:** John to involve Glenn M, Eric, and Steve (Eric's dad) to assess what needs removal
  - 6/19 workday at FMCP – address wet spots and build boardwalk
    - Eric will transport lumber from Loews on Saturday morning
    - Notice to membership went out Monday 6/14
- WRNP: Mowing/New Trail Stewards
- Steward job description: monitor trails, take care of smaller items, and bring bigger items to attention of the Board
  - New trail stewards
    - Linda Siple and Tom Gibbons, Green and Brown Trail
    - Chris Streeter – Red Trail
  - Matt Frank no longer to mow WRNP – Ron Happ
    - Mowing required 6 to 7 times/year, taking 5 to 6 hours each time with 61-inch mower, and 5 gallons of gas
    - Hal suggested follow Crescent Trail model using Silver Fox volunteers.
      - Town drops mower off on Wednesday, and volunteer of the week picks up the mower and does the work for that week
    - Questions about what mower is appropriate, who should purchase it (town?), and who would be responsible for maintenance on equipment.
    - Should volunteers be reimbursed by FWT for gasoline?
      - Passed by voice vote, effective immediately
      - **ACTION ITEM:** Norma to send email to mowers
    - Establish subcommittee to identify plan
      - Identify an appropriate mower and what trails need to be mowed, confirm with what's in the mowing plan on the Website
      - Interview the Silver Foxes about their process
      - Write up proposal to share with Town
      - **ACTION ITEM:** Anna to ask Bud Gearhart to establish subcommittee
- Kiosk Information- Review how content is selected, when it is updated - Group
- Table until Craig is in attendance next month
  - Include discussion of a way to put something on the Website, such as a kids' corner

- Kiosk recommended contents: Maps, history, flora and fauna points of interest, and regulations

## 2. Tree Project: Response - Norma

- Committee of 8 people
- John working on setting up a first meeting

## 3. Promote:

- Passport Update – Anna: working with Parks and Rec on update to passport maps. Updated with John Unger, will look at placing it near the existing memorial plaque.
- Summer Hikes – Hidden Gems? Looking for 2 more hikes in addition to Hot Cocoa hike. Maybe a Junker Car hike?
  - o Identify options that hit different difficulty levels and time?  
**ACTION ITEM:** Bring ideas for new hikes to July meeting
- Website Updates – Steve Snyder/Anna Taylor
  - o **ACTION ITEM:** Feedback needed by June 30 to Steve and Anna

## 4. Open Space

- Review status of property acquisition – Anna Taylor

## 5. Open Discussion - none

Adjourn!