

FWT Board Meeting - Minutes

August 9, 2021

Attendees: Denise Bilsback, John Boettcher, Bud Gearhart, Ron Happ, Hal Harris, Craig Hurlbut, Dennis Kuhn, Ken Merkey, Norma Platt, Anna Taylor, Sarah White, Art Mason (new member visitor)

A. Administrative Tasks

1. Approve/Change Agenda: [Add discussion of orange trail at WRNP](#)
2. Approve Minutes from July Meeting: [Approved with addition of habitat notes](#)
3. Membership Status - Denise Bilsback: [Detailed report distributed via email to Board](#)
 - a. [224, with 5 new members](#)
 - b. [3 new donors](#)
 - c. [Work hours: 176](#)
4. Review of Treasurer Report- Bill Polito: [detailed report distributed via email to Board](#)
5. Social Media – Ken Merkey:
 - a. New initiative to feature trails and work projects
 - 1 [Trails to be featured with photos of work projects and accompanying signs](#)
 - 2 [Should vandalized signs about projects be replaced?](#)
 - a [Scout project signs to be brought to Board's attention. For vandalized scout project signs, the old sign should be sent to FWT scout coordinator.](#)
 - b [Passport signs – contact Denise for replacement](#)
6. Website Inquiry Summary – Norma Platt
 - a. [Offer for help with Hojack – forwarded to Hojack steward and Craig with follow up.](#)
 - b. [In response to Facebook photos of mushrooms, a note that one was very poisonous. Photo was removed.](#)
 - c. [Request to link up Bird Sanctuary trail to Bel Arbor Trail – forwarded to Craig and Anna](#)
 - d. [Request about next board meeting – agenda and Zoom invite sent](#)
7. Communications Update- John Boettcher - Fall NL upcoming. Ideas:
 - a. [Feature a volunteer](#)
 - b. [Open Space Committee update](#)
8. Habitat Committee Update - Norma Platt
 - a. [82 hours of work](#)
 - b. [Working on tree census/benchmarking, with Big Woods done and WRNP underway.](#)

B. Main Topics

1. Trails Planning & Maintenance -
 - a. [Mowing](#)

- Craig gathering information, with current focus on Hojack. Will have report next month.
 - Equipment: The small mowers used by the Crescent Trail or Victor Trails aren't large enough for our needs. Town of Webster outsources mowing work, but town is looking to include a new mower for Big Meadow in the budget for next year.
 - Need to make sure maintenance of machinery is covered. Hal and Anna meeting with Glenn Morrill next week.
 - Number of volunteers who can mow needs to be increased. Plan to solicit from engaged workday participants. **ACTION ITEM:** John to add a request for volunteers to fall and spring newsletters.
- b. Trail Projects 2021:
- Cross Country Team at WRNP - Ron: 20 participants completed the moving/spreading of lots of gravel.
 - Tree Removal at Hickory Bark Trail - Status Eric/John: Two trees marked for town to remove. Other trees are threatening, but should be addressed in the future.
 - 8/14 Trail Workday with ROOTZ Mountain Biking Group: Gravel and one culvert needed close to 250 trail head, but youth of group will limit it to just the gravel. **ACTION ITEM:** Denise will reach out to group for details. Craig is looking to get wheelbarrows for Chiyoda and maybe Bird Sanctuary.
- c. Planning Status
- State Road Trails: Waiting until leaves fall for better visibility.
 - Hojack Trail Grant (forwarded by trail user): Appears to be a grant for state parks only.
Question about gates at trail heads, and if RGE could change the gates to bollards. Leave as is for now.
 - Matt Chatfield email about Sandbar Project. Anna sent letter in support of grant. Hope to be able to use Matt as a resource for tree project in future.

2. Trail Maps

- a. New Printed Maps Proposal, Donation from McAllister Signs - Anna T:
- Chris McAllister created a map of WRNP and offered to create maps for all trail kiosks.
 - Offer to create signs for Webster Park if desired. Craig will put Monroe County in contact with Chris McAllister about adding signage there if they fund it.
- b. WRNP updated map PDF needed on Website.

3. Tree Project - Norma - Woodland resilience tree census ongoing

- a. Sampling of 1-acre areas ongoing, counting all trees within 10% of acre. Big Woods completed, and WRNP in process.

- b Next meeting of subgroup being set up, including engaging experts, next steps in the census/benchmarking, and understand the threats facing the treed areas.
- c Question from Hal about the State Road property that is largely ash and much of it is dead. Committee will look into the issues.
- d Note from Board to engage Glenn Morrill from town. Glenn invited to next meeting.

4. Promote:

- a Hidden Gem Hike: Anna & Rich T to lead on Sat. Aug. 28 at 9 am. Invite will go on FB and on Website.
- b Webster Health and Education Network: A Drug Free Community Coalition (WHEN: DFCC): Seeking a partnership with FWT. WHEN is adding a link to FWT on their Website, and FWT will do the same for their group.
- c Trail Map to be included in Healthy Week Summer Camp Goodie Bags, due 08/16. Anna provided color map to them to highlight a trail.
- d FWT will investigate a full-color trail map, but it will not include advertising (like Victor trails does). **ACTION ITEM:** Denise to create map update for Spring order.
- e Scavenger Hunt: Four Mile Creek on Nov. 6, 9 am to 11 a, hosted and coordinated by Emily and Mark Pettit.
- f Passport Update- Anna – no update
- g Annual Meeting at Finn Park: **ACTION ITEM:** Anna to ask Parks and Rec if we could use Finn Park shelter. Invite town contacts, consistent volunteers.

5. Open Space

- a Revocable Permit Status – Anna: Town Attorney had no comment on the draft form from Victor Trails. Paragraph 6 needs to be updated to change “Victor Trails.” **ACTION ITEM:** Anna to provide updated copy to Ron. Ron to work with landowner to get it signed and notarized.
- b Project Review Committee Meeting update/feedback: Open field south of FMC that could be a good acquisition, but the new owner wants to create lacrosse fields. Hal requested town look to purchase property.
- c Anna and Hal’s meeting with Green Space Committee: Next steps are to contact property owners for shortlisted properties. Hal will share list of properties with Board if desired. Most properties greater than 10 acres were shortlisted.

6. Open Discussion

- a John Boettcher purchased Big Daddy Extractigator for invasive species removal. Board voted in 2020 to reimburse \$273.
- b Orange trail at Whiting Road has lots of erosion with water ruts that needs some maintenance. Could require rerouting or major trail work. Project added to list of work projects.

- c FMC – Town Parks and Rec cleared the area from the split rail fence at Phillips and Lake Road. Dennis contacted the town and they are planning to maintain the work.