

## **FWT Board Meeting Minutes Sept 13, 2021**

**Attendees:** John Boettcher, Ron Happ, Hal Harris, Craig Hurlbut, Dennis Kuhn, Norma Platt, Linda Siple, Steve Snyder, Eric Turberg, Sarah White

### **A. Administrative Tasks**

1. Approve/Change Agenda: Updated agenda sent this morning
2. Approve Minutes from August Meeting: Approved
3. Membership Status- Denise Bilsback: Detailed report distributed via email to Board
  - 1 new member, 225 total members
  - Work hours: 89
4. Review of Treasurer Report - Bill Polito: Detailed report distributed via email to Board
  - Hickory Bark project closed out
  - Supplies expenses were higher than usual, but included WRNP workday, NL expenses, Zoom subscription, and stump extractor.
5. Social Media – Ken Merkey: No report
6. Website Inquiry Summary – Norma Platt:
  - Request to add a connector from Bel Arbor Trail subdivision to Bird Sanctuary Trail. Connector would need to be about 200 feet, but would cross private property, so this would require a liability release. **ACTION ITEM:** Hal to follow up with requestor to see if they will work on the liability needs.
  - Question about who creates the trail signs for a similar look and feel for another trail system. Put in contact with McAllister Sign.
  - Offer to help with a workday, and asked about workdays on Website. One workday remaining in October, to be added to Website and social media.
  - Question if there's a path to Devil's Cove, possibly through the Shriner's property? – Discussion about appropriateness of adding trails there and access through Shriner's land, including parking question, liability, and Monroe County plans. **ACTION ITEM:** Add discussion for next month's meeting.
7. Communications Update- John Boettcher:
  - Newsletter ideas: Feature trail stewards and solicit trail mowers for next year. Update on all open space areas with what's new and what is needed to be done. John will contact all trail stewards for information.
  - Due date in October for distribution in early November.
8. Habitat Committee Update- Norma Platt: 39.5 hours of work, including tree census and understory characterization for Tree project.

## B. Main Topics

### 1. Trails Planning & Maintenance:

- Mowing
  - Scope of work – 12 miles (Hojack, WRNP, Gosnell) needed every 3 weeks.
  - \$1M liability insurance to do RG&E portion of Hojack. Question if that's covered by town. Need to discuss with Town Attorney to see if already covered.
  - Hal and Anna met with Chris Bilow and Glenn Morrell about Victor and Crescent Trail processes, with plans to follow up with a plan at a later date.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** Eric to spearhead preparing a proposal covering what trails (only WRNP and Gosnell, with Hojack having different plan), equipment (what equipment is needed and the ownership, maintenance, and transportation of it), town role (liability, what they continue to mow), volunteers' role (interest gauged after NL article), and possible different plans for different trails.
- August Trail Workday report - Craig/Denise: Looks great! Town delivered gravel, Fred Keck helped move gravel, lacrosse team spread it. Rock and root removal to smooth trail. Low-hanging branches were trimmed.
- September Trail workday: nothing planned
- October Trail Workday: Hal would like State Rd: set for October 16, 9 am. **ACTION ITEM:** John to send solicitation to membership.
  - Trail cleared in April needs more clearing.
  - Pond is low, so picnic table could be removed.
  - Spillway could be widened to three feet.
  - Large tree across trail needs to be cleared.
  - New trail from east end of dam around to the north to connect with the existing trail.
- Missing trail sign Bird Sanctuary Trail on Orchard Street at the kiosk. Vandalism has been an issue, with sign stolen several times. No sign will be installed for now.
- Gosnell Big Field: Brush clearing around fence is difficult, with woody growth and fence posts that can be pulled up with vines. In the past, town has sprayed with glyphosate, but that may not be compatible with GVL maintenance plan. **ACTION ITEM:** John to discuss options with Ron.

### 2. Trail Maps

- Updates – Craig, Denise, Eric: Scout was looking to map and add signage to Webster Park trails. Craig talked with Monroe County Parks, and there is interest to mimic the signage used at WRNP. Craig

forwarded a quote from McAllister Signs to the County. **ACTION ITEM:** Craig and Eric to collaborate to make sure everyone needed is involved and that there is not duplicate work by more than one scout happening.

- Website lacks a printable map WRNP. Some newer trails are also not included. **ACTION ITEM:** Steve and Craig to look into this.
- WRNP signs are confusing in some places. At least 8 could be orientated better. Discussion included adding signage for the parking lot or add a north arrow to the top of the sign. **Tabled for now.**

3. Tree Project – Norma: Benchmarking census continues with Big Woods, WRNP, FMCP, Chiyoda, and Bird Sanctuary complete, and State Rd in process. Glenn Morrell has been included in meetings and approved of process. Next meeting scheduled for 9/20/2021.

4. Promote:

- Group Hike Aug 28,2021 – Craig (for Anna): small group attended. Next Group hike scheduled for Sept 25 at FMCP. Need publicity once Anna returns.
- Hot Cocoa Hike- date/location? – Denise: no report
- FMCP - Cars hike? Dennis to pick a date in early spring 2022
- Scavenger Hunt – Four Mile Creek Nov. 6, 9am-11pm hosted and coordinated by Emily and Mark Pettit. Note that there is poison ivy across the first bridge. **ACTION ITEM:** Dennis will look into the poison ivy, possibly adding caution signage.
- Passport Update - Status – Craig (Anna): no report. Reminder that if a sign is missing, notify Denise.
- Annual Meeting - Finn Park Nov. 8 per Anna. Need to work on invites, agenda. Questions about date (should it be a weekend?) should be directed to Anna.
- T-Shirt Order - show everyone the shirt, it would be dark green w/logo. \$8 each if we buy 100. \$10 each if we buy 50. **Tabled for now.** Considerations:
  - o Question if we can get women's and men's shirts.
  - o Discussion included selling shirts as a fundraiser or as a thank-you gift for a VIP membership level.
  - o Size distribution needs investigation.

5. Open Space

- Revocable Permit Status – Ron: property owner generally in favor, but need to follow up. **ACTION ITEM:** Ron to follow up.
- Green Space - Meeting Overview and Status – Hal: Master list of 80 properties for possible acquisition created. Letter was distributed to property owners to announce possible initiative to seek land for

donation or sale. Committee will now contact owners individually to see about interest. If there's enough interest, a bond will be put to vote in 2022.

Some discussion of Barone property. **ACTION ITEM:** Hal to follow up with Town Supervisor.

#### 6. Open Discussion

- WRNP Green Trail boardwalk at southern end of trail needs repair of rotten planks, but planks need to be custom shaped. Eric to work with Linda Siple on plan. Note that the entire boardwalk needs replacement in the mid-term future.
- Green Trail also needs blazes. Linda will create a template and add blazes where needed.