

FWT Board Meeting Minutes

Oct. 11, 2021

Attendees: Lee Burlew, Denise Bilsback, John Boettcher, Ron Happ, Hal Harris, Craig Hurlbut, Dennis Kuhn, Steve Snyder, Anna Taylor, Eric Turberg, Sarah White

A. Administrative Tasks

1. Approve/Change Agenda: OK
2. Approve Minutes from September Meeting: OK
3. Membership Status - Denise Bilsback: detailed report distributed to Board via email
 - 3 new members, total membership: 207
 - 11 new donors
 - Work hours: 130 (790 YTD, up from 590 last year to date)
4. Review of Treasurer Report - Bill Polito: detailed report distributed to Board via email
5. Social Media – Ken Merkey
 - Facebook followers: 856
 - New FB cover photo
 - Ken will be stepping down from this role, but will continue with work days. A new social media coordinator will be solicited.
6. Website Inquiry Summary – Norma Platt
 - Request for a correction of an Eagle Scout plaque at the bridge at Vosburg Hollow. **ACTION ITEM:** Norma will take care of the replacement.
 - Fishing access in Shipbuilders Creek, with a request to modify the wording on the Website for clarity. **ACTION ITEM:** Steve to update Website to read: Fishing is permitted (license required) in Shipbuilders Creek in Vosburg Hollow only as far downstream as Vosburg Hollow. Anna to alert town to change in wording. Norma to follow up with landowners.
 - Safe access to trails during hunting season query. Responded with where and when hunting is allowed (Gosnell, Four Mile Creek, Whiting Road and Finn Park), and what properties do not sanction hunting.
7. Communications Update - John Boettcher:
 - Newsletter to contain trail updates from stewards on ~80 percent of trails.
 - Newsletter to be mailed by 10/19/2021
8. Habitat Committee Update - Norma Platt
 - 47.5 hours working in WRNP and the Gosnell Big Field
9. Technology: Drop box & Meetup - Anna
 - Anna working on organizing Drop Box
 - Promotion and signups for group hikes is being done on Meetup, similar to for other local hiking groups. **ACTION ITEM:** Discuss in January if all events should be listed on Meetup.

B. Main Topics

1. Trails Planning & Maintenance:
 - Scout Oct. 2 work project in Gosnell Big Woods, follow up – Craig: Roughly a dozen scouts and parents trimmed path from small meadow to big woods and around the bridge.

- Mowing Proposal: Work continuing on proposal for the town, with a plan to present it over the winter and launch it in spring.
 - Mowing needed: WRNP 2 days/every other week; FMC seasonal; and Gosnell Big Field trail and Small Meadow one day every 3 weeks)
 - Equipment: current mowing with a 61-inch Ferris, need at least 48-inch walk-behind. Although a blade Billy Goat (26- or 30-inch) may be needed later, that is not part of the current plan.
 - Volunteers: Need at least 12 people to cover roughly 30 hours/month. **ACTION ITEM: John to add volunteer solicitation in NL.**
 - Liability: **ACTION ITEM: Anna to ask Bill look into it.**
 - Main points to work out with town: Transportation of equipment, annual maintenance (labor and oil changes, etc.), year-round storage, costs (maintenance, equipment, gas borne by FWT; transport by town)
- Gosnell Big Field brush clearing around fence - Ron & John: Parks & Rec mowed the fence line after doing the field, allowing access to the fence. John, Craig and/or Dennis will access the fence to clear under it.
- WRNP Green Trail blazes and board walk – Eric: Eric working with trail steward to do work Oct. 30.
- Hojack Trail proposal to add topsoil – Bud: Low spots on Hojack Trail between Van Alstyne and Drumm roads. Drainage from south side is problematic. **ACTION ITEM: John to talk with Bud about possible solutions.**
- New Trail proposal to link Bel Arbor Trail and Bird Sanctuary Trail – Hal: Hal met with HOA representative for Bel Arbor, but HOA had concerns about parking and withdrew proposal.
- New Trail proposal to Devils Cove on Shriner Property – Group: **ACTION ITEM: Hal to talk with Monroe County about plans for Devils Cove and with the Shriners about Open Space plans.**
- State Road Preserve work day – Oct 23 at 9 am. *[NOTE: Date moved to Oct. 23 due to weather.]* Brush clearing without string trimmers because of poison ivy; widen the spillway from the pond.
- State Road Preserve concerns – Hal:
 - North end of trail starts at the edge of private property on Arbor Creek, and a property owner has concerns about access. Proposal to add a sign for clarity.
 - Parking lot at community center is for residents and guests only. Town will be putting in lot for public on State Rd.
 - HOA mows west of the creek and the Town mows the east side. FWT may have to mow NE end once trails are more firmly established.
 - Tim Young will be trail steward.

2. Trails Multi-Use Rules:

- Hunting requirements, trail cameras and hunting stands - Anna
 - Concerns from Website inquiry (see above).
 - Daily hunters limited 10, with advance sign up. – Anna to send full regulations to Board.
- Fishing at Shipbuilders Creek – Norma: Discussed above.

3. Trail Maps and signage:

- Webster Park signage – Craig and Eric: Scout proposed project to add roughly 25 trail signs to Webster Park at a cost of approximately \$700. County proposed FWT cover the funding and the County would install the signs. Scouts could put signs on posts. Unnamed/herd trails will not get signs. County logo to go on the signs, not FWT.
 - Funding approved.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Eric to check with scout who raised issue. Craig to follow up with County.
 - Passport Update - Status – Anna: No update
 - Purchasing brochures: 1000 trail map brochures in last order are nearly exhausted. ACTION ITEM: Denise to order 2000 (18-month supply). Plan to update maps and brochure next summer/fall once Parking Lot for State Road Preserve is completed.
4. Tree Project – Norma/Sarah: Next meeting rescheduled until Oct. 21. Benchmarking of trees in process with tree species, counts, and forest characteristics. Brainstorming of proposals planned for meeting to identify solutions for Board to consider.
5. Promote:
- Group Hikes:
 - FMCP – Oct. 2, 2021 Complete – Anna hosted with 9 participants from Meetup.
 - FMCP - Proposed Cars Hike: May 2022, hosted by Dennis
 - Next Group hike Oct. 23 at WRNP by Anna
 - Hot Cocoa Hike on Nov. 6 at 7pm – Denise: at WRNP, possibly like in 2020 (less interaction) due to Covid concerns.
 - Scavenger Hunt – Four Mile Creek Nov. 6, hosted and coordinated by Emily and Mark Pettit. Donut donation from FWT. **ACTION ITEM:** Anna to follow up with Emily about timing because of hunting (move to start at 10:30 am). Dennis to mark poison ivy the day of the hunt.
 - Rec Center’s 10th anniversary on Nov 5 from 5pm to 8pm – Anna: Steve and Dennis to put up FWT table.
 - T-Shirt Order – Anna
 - Plan to provide shirts for all Board members, trail stewards, and mowing volunteers.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Anna to check on availability of women’s sizing, plan for what sizes to order.
 - Board approved purchase of 50 shirts.
 - Annual Meeting - Nov. 8, 7pm at Finn Park Liberty Lodge
 - Anna to send out agenda early for Board input.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Everyone should send Anna list of who should get a special invite.**
6. Open Space

- Revocable License Status for WRNP - Ron: Currently using brush to block off the private property, but it's steep and not ideal. **ACTION ITEM:** Anna to follow up with property owner one more time on feasibility of license.
- Green Space - Meeting Overview and Status - Hal/Anna
 - Query about accessibility of Hickory Bark trail for full length, with boardwalk or paved.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Plan for stone dust from bridge to boardwalk as a 2022 workday.

7. Open Discussion - None