

FWT Board Meeting Minutes

Nov. 8, 2021

Attendees: Denise Bilsback, John Boettcher, Ron Happ, Hal Harris, Craig Hurlbut, Dennis Kuhn, Bill Polito, Steve Snyder, Anna Taylor, Eric Turberg, Sarah White, and many invited guests

A. Main Topics

1. Trail Committee – Craig Hurlbut and Eric Turberg:
 - Brief summary of 2021 trail workdays
 - 2022 preview: More work at State Road and other projects
 - Scout projects
 - One eagle project completed: bridge built over spillway from pond
 - Planned projects: New bridge at Eckler property and bridge at State Road over 4 Mile Creek
2. Projects and Outreach
 - Tree Project – Norma Platt and Sarah White
 - Accomplishments: Benchmarking with help of Habitat Conservation group; developed mission statement; tree habitat categorization; developed plan to address invasive Norway maple with Genesee Land Trust; engaged experts from White Oak Nursery and GLT
 - Plans: tree nursery and specimen trees planting pilot plan; community outreach
 - Promoting our trails – Dennis Kuhn
 - Friends Table – Waterfront Arts Festival, Scavenger Hunts, and Rec Center 10th anniversary
 - Scavenger Hunts – Emily Pettis and family developed and hosted events with age-appropriate activities. All proceeds support FWT. Next Hunt scheduled for early spring 2022.
 - Open Space Committee – Hal Harris
 - Committee working with town to see if additional land can be preserved.
 - Identified 80 properties comprising 2000 acres owned by 70 parties. Criteria: properties near current space; forested land; land around water sources; properties near neighborhoods without nearby open space.
 - Next steps: Committee is contacting owners to see if there's interest, and if there's enough, Town will consider a bond referendum.
 - Eckler property – town purchased 19 acres along Four Mile Creek to link up with Red and Yellow trails.

B. 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
 - 10 new members (with 9 in response to Missy R's blog), total membership: 217
 - 2 donations, including \$500 from Trails ROC
 - Work hours: 75
4. Review of Treasurer Report - Bill Polito: detailed report distributed to Board via email
 - Donations are up \$500 YOY
 - About \$22k in year-end accounts
5. Social Media – Anna and Erin Rene
 - Facebook followers: 872 (up 300 YOY)
 - New social media intern
6. Communications Update - John Boettcher:
 - Spring and Fall NLs distributed
7. Habitat Committee Update - Norma Platt
 - Weekly work to remove invasive species and manage open spaces.
 - Big Field management. Work with Town and GLT on mowing plan to manage field.
 - Total hours 250 hours of time for 2021.

C. President's Report

1. Thank you to everyone!
2. Highlights
 - Trail committee maintenance resumed
 - Strong partnership with Town
 - Preservation work resumed
 - Hickory Bark Platform rebuild
 - New trails in State Road
 - Promotions – Hot Cocoa Hike with record attendance
 - Social Media – Thanks to Ken Merkey for full year of work, and welcome to Erin Rene, new Social Media Coordinator
 - Leveraged association with Victor Trails for best practices
 - Monthly Hikes – 3 held so far, with signups on Meetup
 - Special Projects – ReTree project; partnership with other trails groups; mowing partnership with Town; Trail Map signs for Webster Park
 - Open Space Initiative
 - Developing partnership with WHEN
3. How to support FWT:
 - Suggest membership to others
 - Come to a trail workday
 - Join for a hike
 - Lead a hike

- Volunteer for the mowing team
- Volunteer at the Friends Table

Adjourned!