

FWT Board Meeting Minutes February 15, 2022

Attendees: John Boettcher, Carolyn Brown, Ron Happ, Hal Harris, Craig Hurlbut, Dennis Kuhn, Bill Polito, Anna Taylor, Sarah White

A. Administrative Tasks

1. Approve/Change Agenda: [Approved without change](#)
2. Approve Minutes from January 2022 Meeting: [Approved](#)
3. Membership Status- Denise Bilsback: [Detailed report distributed to Board via email](#)
 - [232 total members, up 6 in January](#)
 - [Total volunteer hours: 4](#)
4. Review of Treasurer Report- Bill Polito: [Detailed report distributed to Board via email](#)
 - [\\$335 in donations \(\\$1400 in January 2021\)](#)
 - [Cash balance up slightly](#)
5. Social Media – Erin Rene (Anna)
 - [FB: 898 followers](#)
 - [IG: 275 followers](#)
 - o [Planning to switch IG account because of issues with access. Plan in place to migrate followers.](#)
 - o [Suggestion to document password and user IDs. Anna has started doing this in Dropbox.](#)
 - [Developing new graphics for social media seasonal events, poster board for Hot Cocoa hike, and trail work day signage](#)
6. Website Inquiry Summary – Norma Platt
 - [Boy Scout working on citizenship badge. Anna suggested that Craig talk with the scout, which happened, with a work day project the likely result.](#)
 - [Proposed NL article. Someone proposed a guest article for the FWT NL, but it was a commercial opportunity, not aligned with FWT.](#)
7. Communications Update- John Boettcher:
 - [Spring NL deadline: **April 1.**](#)
 - [Suggested articles: Eckler property, new property near John Unger trail, Trail Steward report, Open Space initiative, and ReTree project.](#)
8. Habitat Committee Update- Norma Platt: [Penfield resident requested information about mowing of the field for replication at Shadow Pines. Norma responded with information, including articles from the Fall NL. Response was VERY affirming.](#)
9. Conflict-of-Interest Form, Contact list, New Appointment - Anna:
 - **ACTION ITEM:** [All board members need to sign the conflict-of-interest form, ideally this week.](#)
 - **ACTION ITEM:** [Board members need to check their information on Dropbox or email Anna with changes.](#)
 - [New pro bono attorney Ben Wisniewski will have a draft agreement in March.](#)

B. Main Topics

1. **Trails Planning & Maintenance:**
 - [Maintenance: Planning/Strategize - Craig, Hal, Eric:](#)

- Draft calendar in the works:
 - April 16: Hojack trail pick up and ReTree committee nursery construction
 - May: State Road and FMCP
 - June: Michael Johnson Trail
 - July: Drainage for Chiyoda
 - August: TBD
- Open up work days to the membership? Revisit in March
- Maintenance: Mowing Proposal Update-Eric:
 - Eric and Craig met with Parks & Rec. Town agreed to store and maintain the mower, but not to transport it. Storage would be at town barn on Route 250.
 - Town will mow the Hojack trail.
 - Bill Polito will circulate current finance information to Board.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Sarah to check if a landscape trailer is for sale. Craig to ask Glenn if FWT can use the town trailer for transport.
- New Trails: Ha, Craig, Eric
 - Work day planned for Michael Johnson trails. \$3700 donated for that purpose, with kiosk and bench envisioned. Possible gazebo would require additional funding.
 - Eckler bridge scout project planned for FMCP.

2. Re-Tree Project: Norma/Sarah

- Committee Proposal: Replanting our Native Forest
- Questions about what constitutes native species, which John and Norma provided
- Suggestion to look into "Tree City" designation of Village of Webster. **ACTION ITEM:** Hal to investigate.
- Committee requests first work day of the season. **ACTION ITEM:** John to send Crag a write up of work needed and estimated volunteers requested.
- Funding request of \$1950. Motion to support ReTree effort and underwrite in the amount not to exceed \$1950. **Approved.**

3. Promote: Anna T.

- Group Hikes: Ideas/Suggestions for 2022
 - January Hike: Sat. Jan 22 at WRNP – well attended
 - February Hike: Sat Feb. 19 at 9am at FMC
 - P&R: Family Polar Run/Walk: Feb 26 at North Ponds Park with start waves at 10am and 11am. FWT Table Volunteers needed starting at 9am. Anna and Dennis will staff the Friends Table. Town wants to have brochure in goodie bag, so Dennis to have printed copies on plain paper.
 - WHEN - Anna to reach out regarding family hikes
 - FMCP - Proposed Cars Hike: April 30 by Dennis
- FWT Graphics: see social media report above.
- T-Shirt Order/Distribution: Distribution to happen at an upcoming board meeting.
- Scavenger Hunt: March 6 at 10am at Gosnell Big woods. FWT Table Volunteers needed. **ACTION ITEM:** Anna to mention parking concerns to Emily. Notify Anna if willing to work the Friends Table.
- Website – updates: Steve S to update Website with all events and Board meetings.
- Fall family hike or fun run partnership with town possible, similar to Polar Run/Walk.

- Community Arts Day – Dennis: Saturday April 9, and FWT has participated in the past. Looking for 2-hour shifts for Friends Table. Dennis to handle set up and tear down. **ACTION ITEM:** Volunteers needed – let Dennis know if you’re interested. Dennis also to ask membership for interest.

4. **Open Space:**

- Open Space Status – Hal: Next committee meeting 2/18/2022. Approximately 30 owners have expressed interest in participating.
- DEC awarding grants for community forests for acquisition of land. Committee likely to apply with specific properties identified. Grant application due early April.

5. **Open Discussion:** No items