

FWT Board Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2022

Attendees: Denise Bilsback, John Boettcher, Ron Happ, Hal Harris, Craig Hurlbut, Bud Gearhart, Erin Rene, Anna Taylor, Eric Turberg, Sarah White

A. Administrative Tasks

1. Approve/Change Agenda: [Add signing of waiver](#)
2. Approve Minutes from November 2021 Meeting: [OK](#)
3. Membership Status- Denise Bilsback: [detailed report distributed to Board via email](#)
 - [226 total members with 4 new in December](#)
 - [Donations up with year-end was more than \\$2k](#)
 - [38 volunteer hours in December; 946 total in 2021](#)
4. Review of Treasurer Report- Bill Polito: [Detailed report distributed to Board via email](#)
[Close out Hickory Bark project; Eric to get new estimate for FMC](#)
5. Social Media – Erin Rene
 - [FB followers – 6 new since late December](#)
 - [IG – no new followers, 2 posts](#)
6. Website Inquiry Summary – Norma Platt
 - [New volunteer looking to get involved](#)
7. Communications Update- John Boettcher: [Nothing to report](#)
8. Habitat Committee Update- Norma Platt: [Work on hold for the winter](#)
9. Conflict of Interest Form, Contact list - Anna: **Two ACTION ITEMS:**
 - [All board members should sign read and sign the waiver for 2022 at Parks and Rec by the end of January.](#)
 - [Everyone should confirm the contact list in Drop Box with address and cell number.](#)
10. Waiver – Norma: [New waiver needed for 2022. Norma will send the form via email to Board members and stewards.](#) **ACTION ITEM:** [Read, sign and return via email to Norma.](#)
[Note that work party waivers from volunteers should also go to Norma.](#)
11. New volunteer: [Ben Wisniewski volunteered to represent FWT as needed on pro bono basis. He practices in environmental law. Motion to authorize Anna to pursue agreement with him.](#)
[Motion carried.](#)

B. Main Topics

1. Trails Planning and Maintenance
 - Maintenance: [Happy New Year, Welcome 2022! Begin planning/strategize](#)
ACTION ITEM: [Craig to reach out to trail stewards to determine what projects are needed, for Board to prioritize later.](#)
 - Maintenance: [Mowing Proposal – Eric](#)
 - [Still working on proposal. Next step is to discuss the plan with the town for storage, transport, and maintenance.](#)
 - [Mower investment likely \\$7k to \\$10k.](#)

- Ron has concerns about starting this year, particularly about the number of volunteers who might be needed, which generated discussion about starting slowly this year on a few trails with limited volunteers.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Eric and Craig to set up meeting with Glenn Morrell from town.
- Maintenance: Hojack Trail meeting set up – Anna: Question if there should be a meeting of all the stewards to consult about the trail as a whole. **ACTION ITEM: Anna to set up meeting with stewards and Craig.**
- New Trail: State Road Preserve – Hal:
 - Stalemate concerning bridge over Four-Mile Creek because it is in a floodplain and requires permitting. Bridge is primarily for the residents to access the trails on the east side of the preserve. Scout who was to build the bridge is doing a different project. Prioritize this after know more about the permitting.
 - One or two additional work days are needed to complete this as a loop once the bridge is completed.
- New Trail: Eckler Property – Hal: Approval from town to build a bridge (including that the bridge would be on town property). Bridge would be part of new trail to link Red Trail to Yellow Trail. Heavy brush exists that will need at least one work day to clear. Hal to send details to Board.
- New Trail: Michael Johnson Memorial Trail – Hal: Land adjacent to the John Unger trail donated to the town. Adds roughly half-mile loop to John Unger trail. Needs some signage/small kiosk, required by the terms of the donation. Suggestion to make signage consistent with the John Unger trail.

2. Trail Maps

- Webster Park Update – Craig: Some new signs installed, but without maps. No contact from county in the last couple months, and no action required from FWT until spring when follow up could be made.
- Passport Update – Anna: New contacts for Passport with Town. Plan to do update after new trails are completed this year.
- Brochure printing – Denise: Brochures completed.

3. Tree Project – Norma/Sarah

- Jim Englert from White Oak Nursery to donate time and labor for clearing an area in WRNP for sapling planting. Project approved by the town.
- Proposal for multi-phase project to be completed this month. If there are any questions, the Board can visit White Oak Nursery Website with more information about process.

4. Promote

- Group Hikes: Ideas/Suggestions for 2022
 - Sat. January 22 at 9am at WRNP – Anna
 - Sat. Feb. 19 at 9am at FMCP - Dennis
 - P&R: Proposed family Polar Run/Walk in Feb 26 at WRNP – Anna: Town will provide a hot cocoa station. FWT Hot Cocoa hike had table at Brown Trail, which was convenient. Anna to reach out to town. Craig and John to participate in scouting walk. Ron to provide input. Anna to check with local running store to put up tent for winter traction discussion.

- WHEN – Anna: Anna will provide notice of hikes to them.
 - FMCP: Proposed Cars Hike in May – Dennis: More details to follow
 - Scavenger Hunts – Emily to set dates
 - T-shirt order/distribution – Anna: Wait until spring for distribution to trail stewards and Board members.
 - Website updates: Anna sending information about events to Website coordinators.
 - Events: Scavenger Hunts
 - Hot Cocoa Hike in the fall – date TBD
5. Open Space: status – Hal: No update over the holidays. **ACTION ITEM: Anna and Hal to meet to strategize on properties.**
6. Open Discussion – No items