

FWT Board Meeting July 11, 2022

Attendees: Denise Bilsback, John Boettcher, Bud Gearhart, Ron Happ, Hal Harris, Craig Hurlbut, Dennis Kuhn, Norma Platt, Bill Polito, Anna Taylor, Steve Snyder, Sarah White

A. Administrative Tasks

1. Approve/Change Agenda: Add discussion of memoriam donations
2. Approve Minutes from June 2022 Meeting: Approved
3. Membership Status- Denise Bilsback: Detailed report distributed via email to Board
 - a. 1 new member: 243 total
 - b. Matching Gift from Johnson & Johnson Employee Engagement. **ACTION ITEM: Anna to check who initiated the gift.**
 - c. Volunteer work hours: 140
4. Review of Treasurer Report- Bill Polito: Detailed report distributed via email to Board
 - a. \$460 donations
 - b. Negative cash flow YTD, but grants will off-set mower and other costs.
5. Social Media – Anna Taylor
 - a. 927 FB followers
 - b. 322 Meetup, up from 290 in May
6. Website Inquiry Summary – Norma Platt
 - a. Missing Passport sign on Midnight Trail; forwarded to Denise.
 - b. Volunteer for Habitat Committee; added to mailing list.
 - c. ReTree engagement from article in 55+ magazine; opportunities shared.
 - d. Inquiry for total donations in memory of Norman Sykes; forwarded to Bill Polito.
7. Communications Update- John Boettcher:
 - a. Work day on Saturday 7/16: Spreading stone by Webster Thomas CC team and finish cutting Eckler trail. FMC at 9am.
 - b. New article in *55 Plus* magazine.
 - c. New *Herald* article about clearing and planting at WRNP.
 - d. WXXI Connections. Anna interview starts 14 minutes in on 7/8/2022 show.
8. Habitat Committee Update- Norma Platt
 - a. Work at John Unger Trail, including tree mapping, underbrush removal (multiflora and autumn olive), and planting shrubs from ReTree nursery.

B. Main Topics

1. Trails Planning & Maintenance:

- Maintenance: Planning - Craig, Hal, Steve
 - o Mowing – volunteer calendar: Craig and Steve doing mowing so far.
 - o Trailer – Status. Steve looking into a second-hand enclosed trailer, ideally by fall, with max of \$5k from grant (see below). Registration and insurance will be needed.
- Trail Workday #5: New M. Johnson Trail - Norma
- Trail Workday #6: Four Mile Creek, July 16, 2022, 9am, spreading stone and cutting the rest of the Eckler property trail. **ACTION ITEM: Anna and Sarah to drop off**

shovels and rakes. Craig to provide donuts and water.

Plan for future to purchase shovels for FWT use to be stored in mower trailer.

- Trail Workday #7: August date: Whiting Rd Nature Preserve (Possible partner with GROC)
- Hojack Trail update – Anna T./Norma: Need to gather stewards to discuss plans for use of grant money and how to leverage engaged public. Want to do usage survey. **ACTION ITEM:** Sarah to develop a plan to do a trail usage count sample. Craig to work with stewards to document condition and ownership of each segment of Hojack.
- ReTree planting in September with up to 20 people. **ACTION ITEM:** Norma to see if Rotary group wants to help.
- Lost & Found basket- Dennis/Anna: **ACTION ITEM:** Anna to follow up with Glenn Morrell.
- Hickory Bark: Boardwalk Surface signage – Norma: Norma installed signage.
- Trail Maps: update for M Johnson and Eckler Property. In process.
- Webster Town Grant: Status of Award/next Steps - Hal
\$12,138 American Rescue Program Grant from town for mower, trailer, parking lot for State Road, and Hojack trail improvement/maintenance. Grant must be used for those projects by the end of 2024, and documentation should be kept.

Rotary grant for Hojack benches and ReTree – must be spent this year on 4 benches and specimen trees for John Unger.

2. Re-Tree Project: Norma/Sarah

- a. 6 trees planted near parking lot off Blue Trail, caged and labeled.
- b. Specimen tree planting to happen later with September workday.
- c. Meeting scheduled for 7/13.
- d. Grant proposal submitted to Muller Proposal; decision due in September.

3. Promote: Anna T.

- Group Hikes: 2022
 - a. Monthly Hike: Whiting Rd Nature Preserve, July 23, 2022 at 10:30am
 - b. Gosnell planned for August.
- Partnerships: WHEN: Proposed Inspirational trail signs, they will fund, FWT to install. Respectfully decline.
- Connections on WXXI Connections “Uplift our community” July 1, 1:15-1:20 spot – complete!

4. Open Space:

- Open Space - Status- Hal: Letter going to property owners saying no referendum this year.

5. Open Discussion

Memorial gifts: Suggestion to add a sign on kiosk with Gold/Silver/Bronze donation levels. **ACTION ITEM:** Anna to draft a proposal after researching what other trail systems do.