

FWT Board Meeting Minutes March 14, 2022

Attendees: Denise Bilsback, John Boettcher, Hal Harris, Craig Hurlbut, Bud Gearhart, Dennis Kuhn, Norma Platt, Anna Taylor, Eric Turburg, Sarah White

A. Administrative Tasks

1. Approve/Change Agenda: [Add Community Arts Day discussion](#)
2. Approve Minutes from February 2022 Meeting: [Approved](#)
3. Membership Status- Denise Bilsback: [detailed report distributed to Board via email](#)
 - a [236 members total, 4 new in February with several tied to brochures](#)
 - b [Work hours: 17 YTD](#)
4. Review of Treasurer Report- Bill Polito: [Detailed report distributed to Board via email, but YTD donations are running behind 2021](#)
5. Social Media – Erin Rene
 - a [FB – 902 Followers, up 4 since January](#)
 - b [Increased posts, matching Website and FB](#)
 - c [New IG will be in place in April](#)
6. Website Inquiry Summary – Norma Platt
 - a [Interested volunteer who is on the board of Genesee Land Trust may lead a hike](#)
 - b [Webster Rotary grant possibility \(see below\)](#)
 - c [Inquiry if FWT would like to participate in Penfield Indoor Hike – see below](#)
 - d [Interest in attending the next board meeting](#)
 - e [Inquiry if birds on Bird Song Trail will eat out of your hands like in Mendon](#)
7. Communications Update- John Boettcher
 - a [NL deadline at end of March](#)
 - b [Webster Herald ReTree articles: 2 published, 2 more on tap](#)
 - c [Sending content to Missy Rosenberg’s blog](#)
 - d [May send content to Messenger Post](#)
8. Habitat Committee Update- Norma Platt
 - a [Call for participants going out soon to membership](#)
 - b [White Oak Nursery provided tree seeds that are ready for planting. Norma to send out request to ReTree, Habitat committee, and membership for help on Thursday, March 24.](#)
9. Conflict of Interest Form, Contact list, New Appointment- Anna
 - a [Need signed Conflict of Interest form from a few Board members](#)
 - b [Anna will double check the contact list on Dropbox](#)
 - c [Pro bono legal resource, Ben Wisniewski, to send terms to Board](#)

B. Main Topics

1. **Trails Planning & Maintenance:**

- a. Maintenance: Planning - Craig, Hal: April will be trash pickup on Hojak and building tree nursery. Layout trail for FMCP in early May and do trail building in May. **ACTION ITEM:** Craig, Hal to pick date for trail layout.
 - i. FMCP – Dennis: Clean-up work of tree blowdowns ongoing with lots of volunteer work and town efforts to clean up. Blue trail rerouted because of hanging branch, with signage and old trail blocked. **ACTION ITEM:** Dennis to get estimate for removal of branch and present to Board.
 - ii. Mowing – Trailer/ Cost next steps:
 - 1. Some discussion about needed capabilities, including: a wood-deck trailer; 48-inch width; possibly used if available.
 - 2. Because town will not transport the mower, volunteers will need to have a trailer hitch. **ACTION ITEM:** Craig to check if the town will store the trailer.
 - 3. Costs: Trailer probably \$3000. Mower probably \$6500 to \$9000, total \$10k to \$12k. Also need gas cans and tie downs.
 - 4. Motion to authorize up to \$12k. Motion Carried.
 - iii. Volunteers for Workdays - Open to the public? Voice vote by Board: Yes. **ACTION ITEM:** Anna to add to Meetup to require signups to enable limits on participation.
- b. Hojack Trail Stewards Meeting follow up – John, Bud, Anna:
 - i. Contacted the Village - Karl Lauer from the village: Discussed common issues, including changing gates at the road crossings, mowing, and hedge trimming. Also looking at the potential for a hike on the trail, group event with history.
 - ii. Anna asked if the village could partner on a new kiosk.
 - iii. Meeting with Glenn from town postponed to future date.
- c. Michael Johnson Trail: Volunteers/Workday(s)/Dedication: Anna sent workday dates to Mary, who will participate. Dedication date TBD.
- d. Scout projects – Eric:
 - i. Two scouts are looking for projects. Possibility for a kiosk at to-be-constructed parking lot for State Road, but timing is a question.
 - ii. Question about what qualifies as a project. ReTree probably isn't an Eagle project, but could do some community service work.

2. **Re-Tree Project: Norma/Sarah**

- a. Genesee Finger Lakes Chapter of the AWMA has an Earth Day grant that was applied for.
- b. Publicity/education through Webster Herald articles.
- c. Workday for to construct fencing and boxes for nursery on April 16. 100+ seedlings from Monroe County Soil and Water and DEC coming in April. Planting scheduled for April 23.

3. **Promote:** Anna T.

- a. Group Hikes: Ideas/Suggestions for 2022
 - i. Group Hike March 19, 10:30 am, Gosnell Big Woods
 - ii. FMCP - Cars Hike: 4/30/2022, at 9am, to be led by Dennis
 - 1. **ACTION ITEM:** Anna to put on Meetup and on social media
 - iii. Nature Walk/Hike with Jacalyn Meyvis, GLT Board Member: Anna Meeting with her 03/17/2022 - Probably Gosnell Big Woods

- b. Events:
 - i. Scavenger Hunt: 03/05/2022 - John Boettcher: HUGE success. 100+ families attended, with more than \$600 collected. Parks & Rec promoted the event, and Julie from them agreed to help promote future FWT events. Erin will also promote on social media.
 - ii. Penfield Indoor Hike – John Boettcher: Theme of sustainability and forest repopulation. Late scheduling led to low turnout of ~40 people. FWT, Friends of Penfield and others had tables.
 - iii. Community Arts Day, Saturday April 9, 10 to noon – Dennis: All shifts covered by volunteers. Denise to provide table and brochures at 9:30 am.
 - iv. WHEN- Anna to reach out regarding family hikes.
 - v. Community Family Night at Miracle Field 05/20/2022 6-8 pm: Friends table: Looking for volunteers for table. Finalize at April Board meeting.
- c. Partnership: Webster Rotary – Norma/Anna
 - i. Joe Corona from Rotary contacted FWT about a grant. Norma and Anna met with him, and they are eager to support the ReTree project. Rotary may support a work party. They need a proposal by Thursday 3/17. **ACTION ITEM:** Anna and Norma will do a proposal.
 - ii. Rotary also wants a trail-building work day for members. They will provide a list of folks who might want to volunteer regularly, so will send list to Craig.
 - iii. Looking for speakers for a Rotary meeting. **ACTION ITEM:** Send interest to Anna with ideas for what to present, finalize in April.
 - iv. Suggested adding benches along Hojak. **ACTION ITEM:** Anna to check with Matt if RGE will allow.
- d. T-Shirt Distribution – Anna will get shirts to those volunteering in near future. Hal suggested getting T-shirts for all volunteers. After discussion, decided that Trail Stewards or Board members can recommend consistent volunteers get a shirt.

4. **Open Space:** Status – Hal:

- a. 1400 acres still under consideration. 29 landowners with some interest, with more landowners to be contacted. Referendum may be this fall.
- b. Town applying for a DEC local forest grant to purchase one property adjacent to Whiting Road. Michael Johnson's widow Mary may put up the 10% match required for that grant.

5. **Open Discussion** – No topics.