

FWT Board Meeting May 9, 2022

Attendees: Denise Bilsback, John Boettcher, Ron Happ, Hal Harris, Craig Hurlbut, Dennis Kuhn, Norma Platt, Anna Taylor, Eric Turburg, Sarah White, Tim and Roz Hayes (guests)

A. Administrative Tasks

1. Approve/Change Agenda: [OK](#)
2. Approve Minutes from April 2022 Meeting: [Approved](#)
3. Membership Status- Denise Bilsback: [Detailed report distributed via email to Board:](#)
 - a [241 members with 7 new members](#)
 - b [3 donors](#)
 - c [Volunteer work hours: 68 hours](#)
4. Review of Treasurer Report- Bill Polito: [Detailed report distributed via email to Board](#)
5. Social Media – Erin Rene
 - a [922 FB followers, up 20 from April](#)
 - b [Instagram account is updated to new account](#)
 - c [Meetup has 290 members. Suggestion to add a link from Meetup to FWT Website.](#)
6. Website Inquiry Summary – Norma Platt
 - a [FMC boardwalk had planks that needed replacing which Dennis replaced in 2 days.](#)
 - b [Inquiry from Library passing along information from a scout looking for a project, but without contact information for the scout.](#)
 - c [Question from Irondequoit resident looking to copy our trail maps. Norma responded with our process.](#)
 - d [Report of a tree down at Gosnell Woods that was taken down by Bud.](#)
 - e [Report of trees down on the 104 Bike Trail, which was redirected to NYSDOT. Norma has contact information for NYSDOT.](#)
7. Communications Update- John Boettcher
 - a [Bud Gearhart’s suggestion to have a communication notice for trail feedback is now a reality. John partnered with Erin to create a sign to be put up on a post for each trail.](#)
 - b [The final Webster Herald article on ReTree is publish this week.](#)
 - c [Chris Bilow will put a ReTree article in Webster Today newsletter. Due date is May 19.](#)
 - d [Discussion about how to build membership and build engagement among members. New efforts:](#)
 - i [Include more in the NL about volunteer opportunities.](#)
 - ii [Start monthly email messages to membership with upcoming opportunities.](#)
 - iii [Add email addresses to volunteer waiver so we can contact volunteers with thanks to build engagement. **ACTION ITEM: Norma to update the waiver and distribute to Board.**](#)
8. Habitat Committee Update - Norma Platt: [Email solicitation for habitat volunteers was sent in April, with 15 people signed up. First workday is May 13 at Bird Sanctuary.](#)

B. Main Topics

1. Trails Planning & Maintenance: -

- a Maintenance: Planning - Craig, Hal, Steve
 - i Mowing. Tutorial on mower operation completed. Volunteer plan drafted. Craig and Steve will tackle first 2 times to verify time commitment and any special instructions.
 - ii Storage. Still need a place for the mower to be stored. Options: Build a storage shed (materials ~\$2500 for 10x12 shed) or buy an enclosed trailer for \$6700 (open trailer is \$3500).
ACTION ITEM: Craig to ask Glenn if we can build a shed, ideally on Parks and Rec land. Pending confirmation, purchase shed kit and schedule building.
- b Trail Workday #1: Hojack Trail Clean up, April 16, 2022 – feedback: Successful with 10 scouts participating. This was the second consecutive year for this clean up, and it may not need annual work now that it's been cleaned.
- c Trail Workday #2: Re-tree Event, April 16, 2022 – feedback: Nursery construction completed with 7 people. Parks & Rec has supplied a water tank and mulched around the beds.
- d Trail Workday #3: Four Mile Creek, May 7, 2022 – Feedback: Dozen volunteers, including some from Chili, completed clearing about half of the new Eckler property addition trail. Bridge to be completed in May or early June as scout project.
- e Trail Workday #4: Four Mile Creek, May 21, 2022 at 9AM – changed from State Road. Hal and Dennis to flag trail path before the workday. **ACTION ITEM:** John to send out volunteer request for cutting new trail.
 - i Suggestion to have a group celebration hike for when the trail is complete. Invite Eckler family, town officials, and Missy Rosenberry.
ACTION ITEM: Anna to put hike on the schedule upon trail completion, probably for late June or early July.
- f Trail Issue Communication/Lyme disease Info: status
 - i Trail issue communication signage discussed above under Communications.
 - ii Norma shared a photo of a Lyme disease warning sign posted in Webster Park by the County. **ACTION ITEM:** Norma to ask Glenn about getting signage for town.

3. Webster Town Grant – Hal: Town is getting \$350k from Covid funding to be granted to local nonprofits (see <https://www.ci.webster.ny.us/640/ARPA-Grant>), with proposals due 5/31. **ACTION ITEM:** Hal to compile the grant proposal to cover:

- a Mowing materials – shed, trailer, and mower with an ask of \$10k.
- b Hojack improvement between Klem and Holt. **ACTION ITEM:** John and Norma to check with Matt Steiner about RGE's input and send Hal a rough estimate by 5/16.

Note that ReTree is set for funding for 2022, so no additional ask is needed.

2. Re-Tree Project: Norma/Sarah

- a Nursery construction done, and 140 seedlings planted.
- b Watering plan for nursery in development.

- c Webster Rotary Grant Application competed, with notification in early May.
- d Norma is working on an additional new grant, likely to cover treatment of hemlock woolly adelgid in Whiting Road.

4. **Promote:** Anna T.

- a Group Hikes: 2022
 - i Group Hike April 23, 10:30 am, Hojack Trail- feedback: Well attended with 10 people.
 - ii FMCP- Car Hike: April 30, 2022, Dennis- feedback: 30 attendees very appreciated. Plan to repeat it at a future date. Plan to put car information on Trail Description page of Website.
 - iii May – location TBD -
- b Events:
 - i Community Family Night at Miracle Field 05/20/2022 6-8 pm - Friends table to be hosted by Dennis and Craig.
 - ii New Trail Dedication Ceremonies – Eckler Property (discussed above), Michael Johnson TBD once it's ready.
- c Board Member Recruitment. Vacant or soon-to-be-vacant positions: Youth Project Coordinator (now), VP (which will be filled from within the Board), and Treasurer (end of 2022). **ACTION ITEM:** Anna to finalize description (add requirement of building process knowledge and estimate of time commitment) and to ask Parks & Rec if we can post Project Coordinator on their site.
- d Website - Donate Button has been added.
- e Partnerships: WHEN/Rotary Club/ GROC
 - i WHEN (drug-free Webster group) is looking partner with us. **ACTION ITEM:** Anna to meet with them and see if they want to organize a trail hike or workday.
 - ii Rotary Club discussed at prior meeting and grant proposal submitted.
 - iii GROC – **ACTION ITEM:** Anna to contact them to see if they want to do a trail workday.
- f T-Shirt Distribution continues. Anna continuing with distribution.

5. **Open Space:**

- a Open Space - Status- Hal: Committee is working to contact remaining 24 landowners so list of properties can be finalized.
- b DEC Community Forest Grant submitted. Decision in June.

6. **Open Discussion**

- a Guests mentioned they sought out information about FWT because they think it's important to support local trails.
- b Guests also asked if the Hojack trail could be better surfaced, more like the Erie Canal or Auburn Trail. Because the trail is actually owned by RGE and it is used for utility access, the surface has to meet their needs. FWT can provide input, but has no decision-making authority.