

FWT Board Meeting August 8, 2022

Attendees: Denise Bilsback, John Boettcher, 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: OK
2. Approve Minutes from July 2022 Meeting: Approved
3. Membership Status- Denise Bilsback: Detailed report distributed to Board via email
 - a Total members: ???
 - b Work hours: 122.5 hours
4. Review of Treasurer Report- Bill Polito: Detailed report distributed to Board via email
 - a Town Recovery grant was received.
 - b Upcoming expense: Replacement of two orange trail boardwalks, just west of the red trail, in WRNP, including demolition and new construction of a wider boardwalk, expanding from 2 feet to 4. **ACTION ITEM:** Craig to see if there's a scout available to do the work.
 - c Youth Coordinator position: Posted July 27, but no interest so far. Will need someone to pitch in to cover this role. **ACTION ITEM:** Craig will ask local troops for someone to do the role temporarily, including having tools to do the work and supervision of the work.
5. Social Media – Anna Taylor
 - a FB: 930, up three from July
 - b Meetup: 336, up from 322 in July
 - c IG: 87
 - d Two people signed up on Meetup for August workday.
6. Website Inquiry Summary – Norma Platt
 - a Dead and dying ash trees reported in Whiting Road. Referred to Town.
 - b New member wants to join August workday. Will be included in email recruitment.
 - c Passport completed and looking for next steps. Forwarded to Denise who responded to inquiry. Denise is also working with Wegmans on updating the Passport booklets. In addition, the FWT Website should be updated to note that the promotions are no longer honored. **ACTION ITEM:** Wording for Website needs to be sent to Steve.
7. Communications Update- John Boettcher:
 - a Workday on August 20. Green Trail at WRNP.
 - b Autumn Newsletter deadline coming up, and it will include information about annual FWT meeting.
8. Habitat Committee Update - Norma Platt: Despite the heat, work was done at John Ungar.

B. Main Topics

1. **Trails Planning & Maintenance:** -
Maintenance: Planning - Craig, Hal, Steve
 - o Mowing – volunteer calendar: No mowing needed until we get the trailer.
 - o Trailer - Status – no update

- Trail Workday #6: Four Mile Creek, July 16 – Dennis. RL Thomas XC team completed clearing new orange trail and spreading stone. Dennis contacted Glenn Morrell about blaze paint or badges of some sort to mark the new orange trail. **ACTION ITEM: Norma and Craig to work on mapping of orange trail.**
 - Trail Workday #7: Whiting Rd Nature Preserve, August 20 – Craig to coordinate stone spreading at 9:00am. Wheelbarrows are needed. Cross Country team will contribute some help.
 - Trail Workday #8: Tree Planting, Sept 17 – Norma: Rotary plans to help.
 - Hojack Trail update (Planning mtg to be scheduled) – Anna: Meeting to come, with discussion of the trail condition of each segment of the trail. The meeting will include Matt from RGE. **ACTION ITEM: Anna to schedule meeting.**
 - Lost & Found basket- Anna: Glenn Morrell approved putting a basket on each kiosk. *Process:* Trail stewards will regularly (but not daily) check the basket. Valuable items will be bagged in a transparent bag, marked with the trail the item was left at, and taken to the Parks & Rec office. **ACTION ITEM: John B will communicate the policy to trail stewards.**
 - Trails/Trail Maps: update for M Johnson and Eckler Property - Norma & Dennis: A map of the trail is ready for the Website. An entrance archway with signage is in the works with materials already purchased. A plaque like the one at the John Unger trail is in process. A dedication hike/event can be done in the future. **ACTION ITEM: Norma to provide map files to Steve for Website.**
 - Counting Trail usage – Sarah: Purpose is to understand usage for resource allocation, perhaps especially for prioritizing trails with the town. Proposals: (a) purchase a trail counter for accurate counting; (b) do visual counting at a sampling of days/times on trails; (c) use a trail camera to count users; or (d) not do counting. *Decided* to do a counts in some way at WRNP and FMC, but the process is still to be decided. Continue discussion next month.
 - Grants: Status of Awards/Next Steps - Hal, Norma, Anna. Town Recovery Grant funds and Rotary grant funds received. Need to provide recordkeeping for Rotary grant. **ACTION ITEM: Anna to communicate with Rotary about exact documentation needed.**
 - Tools management. Hedge trimmer needed: should FWT buy the tools? Estimate of cost is \$350 for cordless trimmer with 2 batteries.
 - i. Vote on purchase – Approved. **ACTION ITEM: Craig to purchase.**
 - ii. Need to establish a central location for tool storage or a tracking process/sign out process. Suggest adding an administrative item to agenda for tool tracking. **ACTION ITEM: Anna to circulate to Board a spreadsheet for establishing a tool inventory.**
 - iii. Display materials will not be part of tool tracking. Those will be transferred to John’s house.
2. **Re-Tree Project:** Norma/Sarah: September work party will be to plant the specimen plot in Whiting Road and the east end of the Johnson trail. The work will include planting the trees and installing protection fencing.
3. **Promote:** Anna T.
- Group Hikes: 2022
 - o Monthly Hike: Whiting Rd Nature Preserve, July 23,2022
10:00am: The day was very hot, and only 1 person attended. The August hike will be earlier in the day to beat the heat.
 - Partnerships: WHEN (Webster Health & Education Network) update (see Flyer Attached

& Link below) <https://www.whendfcc.org/healthy>. Missy Rosenberg suggested a joint hike with FWT and WHEN. Details to follow.

- Memorial Program – Ideas/Next Steps for implementation – All. Anna distributed the Monroe County program process to the Board via email. Discussion set for September.
- Website- Proposed updates- Anna. Want to add drop down for ReTree materials.
ACTION ITEM: Norma and Sarah to work with Steve to add materials.
- Recruitment -Anna: No interest yet. **ACTION ITEM:** Anna will post on Linked In.
- Annual Meeting – Anna: Planning process starting, with the idea of having a speaker attend. Anna has some ideas, but **all should send ideas to Anna**. Location will be Finn Park lodge again.
- Car Hike redux proposed for November 5.

4. **Open Space:**

- Open Space – Status - Hal. Town was awarded DEC Community Forest Grant \$280k to acquire the Woods property off Herman Rd, which will enable a second entrance for Whiting Road. Mary Donbovy will fund the difference in purchase price from the grant. After completion of purchase, several projects will be needed: construction of trails and boardwalks; construction of 8-car parking lot off Herman Rd; and ReTree work to clear invasives and do planting near road.

5. **Open Discussion**

State Rd. bridge construction remains an open question, with permits needed for construction in a wetland. Given the residents' opposition, this project will be held.