

## **FWT Board Meeting**

**April 10, 2023**

**Attendees:** Denise Bilsback; John Bottcher, Ron Happ, Hal Harris, Dennis Kuhn, Chris Peterson, Norma Platt, Steve Snyder, Sarah White

### **A. Administrative Tasks**

1. Approve/Change Agenda - [Approved](#)
2. Approve Minutes from March 2023 Meeting - [Approved](#)
3. Membership Status- Denise Bilsback: [Detailed report distributed to Board via email](#)
  - [Membership: 223 members, including 5 new in March](#)
  - [Total volunteer hours: 40 in March; 115 YTD](#)
4. Review of Treasurer Report- Chris/Lynn Peterson: [Detailed report distributed to Board via email](#)
  - [\\$18k in checking; \\$24k in savings](#)
  - [Trailer purchase coming this month](#)
  - [Bank statement confirmation process initiated with one member reviewing monthly, on a rotation](#)
  - [Update to restricted funding status coming next month](#)
5. Social Media – Anna Taylor: [no update](#)
6. Website Inquiry Summary – Norma Platt
  - [Trees down on Chiyoda; removed by Bud and Ron.](#)
  - [Trees down in Four Mile Creek Preserve; removed by Ron, Dennis, and Bud.](#)
  - [Concerns about ATVs on trail. Noted that the town or Webster Police enforce the no motorized vehicles rules in the Open Space.](#)
7. Communications Update - John Boettcher
  - [Notice of workday on Saturday April 15 to members](#)
  - [Newsletter articles needed by April 23](#)
  - [Website to be updated with workdays for year. \*\*ACTION ITEM:\*\* Steve to add workdays to Website.](#)
8. Habitat Committee Update- Norma Platt:
  - [Call for volunteers sent to membership.](#)
  - [Committee will participate in ReTree potting and planting events.](#)
  - [Formal regular season starts mid-May.](#)

### **B. Main Topics**

1. **Goals/Priorities** to Support our Mission
  - Mapping- Norma/All:
    - [Maps ready for Website – \*\*ACTION ITEM:\*\* Norma to send to Steve; Steve to update Website.](#)
    - [Training from Catherine TBD](#)
    - [Boundaries for Midnight Trail parcel need to be updated once training is complete.](#)
  - Trail Use Counting – John:
    - [Counters may be cost prohibitive.](#)
    - [Proposal to do manual count under consideration. Further discussion needed.](#)
  - Insurance - Anna
    - [Minimum costs in email from Anna. More information to come from Arboretum contact.](#)

- **Question** if we need the volunteer accident policy or if town policy covers us.
- Proposal to fund the cost of policies with advertising on brochures. Would build partnerships with local businesses. Further discussion needed.
- Website updates with Re-Tree/Events/ Info - Steve
  - Organization changes done, with more changes in process.

**2. Trails Planning & Maintenance:**

- Trail Projects DRAFT Projects/Schedule for 2023 – Craig
  - Need volunteers to help lay out trail in State Road before workday in May.
  - Board voted by voice to approved funding for Vosburg bridge for \$2600. Benches approved not to exceed \$900, with caveat that the board would like to see the details.
- Trail Inventory – John/ Ron
  - Inventory of structures on trails reviewed and updated.
  - Trail stewards should update the structure information on trails.
  - Inventory of equipment also reviewed by board.
- Stewards Vests/Hats for Identification, per P&R – Hal
  - Sample vest ordered. \$11 each, plus \$5 set up charge.
  - Review sample at next month's meeting.
- Hojack Trail – Kiosk Info from the Village – Hal: Working with McCallister and Village on changes.
- Webster Parks and Rec Dept – FWT 5 Year Goals – Anna: No comments to date. Parks & Rec had some questions about particular properties for acquisition.

**3. Re-Tree Project:** Sarah

- 14 seedlings from 2022 to be moved from nursery to Whiting Road in April.
- 25 bare-root trees/shrubs to be planted in newly cleared area of Yellow Trail in Whiting Road.
- Potting event on Earth Day for new seedlings.
- Additional seedlings to be potted in May.

**4. Promote: Events/Fundraising 2023:**

- Grant Funds – Update Provided to Joe C./ Rotary – Norma: Investigation needed as to
- Review of list below.

**5. Open Space:** Hal – no updates

**6. Action Items/Open Discussion**

Discussion about tree hike for FMC. Suggestions to make the prize trees a native species, to simplify the format, and to make the clues easier.

**Promote: Events/Fundraising 2023**

- **Community Arts Day**, Saturday April 15, 10am-4pm
- **Workday #1**, Clean up - Saturday April 15, 9am-12
  - Hickory Bark Trail
  - Hojack Trail from Holt to Phillips
  - Hojack Trail – Hard Rd
- **Scavenger Hunt**, Earth Day, Saturday April 22, Liberty Lodge
  - Emily/WHEN/Missy R
  - Anna to volunteer
- **ReTree – Earth Day**, Saturday April 22, 2022, 9am ReTree Nursery
- **Webster Volunteer Fair**, May 11, 4pm-6pm – John/Anna
  - Bring events calendar, signup sheet and Membership applications
- **Workday #2**, State Rd - Saturday April 15, 9am-12
- **M Johnson Preserve Trail**, Ribbon Cutting/Hike- Norma
  - May 27th or June 3 (Mary’s children are in town – TBD)
- **4 Mile Creek, Hike the New Trail** – [Dennis Saturday August 5 – Tree hike information, with quiz and prizes](#)
- **Hojack Hike** – 2024 (?)
- **Cars Along the Creek** - Dennis
- **Hot Cocoa Hike** - Denise
- Annual Meeting - Anna
- Monthly Hikes: (modify format) - Anna
- Passport Program Refresh - Denise