

## **FWT Board Meeting July 10, 2023**

**Attendees:** Denise Bilsback; John Bottcher, Ron Happ, Dennis Kuhn, Chris Peterson, Norma Platt, Anna Taylor, Sarah White

### **A. Administrative Tasks**

1. Approve/Change Agenda: Add Zoom membership subscription discussion, and change to September workday for ReTree
2. Approve Minutes from June 2023 Meeting: Approved
3. Membership Status - Denise Bilsback: Detailed report distributed to Board via email
  - Membership at 230
  - Volunteer hours: 100.5ki
  - Small donations received, including some for ReTree and \$320 new donations in memory of Donald Miller
4. Review of Treasurer Report - Chris/Lynn Peterson: Detailed report distributed to Board
  - Checking near \$11k; Savings at \$24k
  - Question if we should move some cash from Savings to a higher-interest vehicle? Chris to investigate options and present at next meeting.
  - Chris to work with Norma on how to track ReTree expenses and grant. **ACTION ITEM: Norma to set up meeting with Chris to discuss.**
  - Anna extended Zoon account for another year at \$149. Passwords are in Dropbox.
5. Social Media – Anna Taylor
  - FB followers:986 – Lots of engagement on recent posts.
  - Meetup group: 490
6. Website Inquiry Summary – Norma Platt
  - Request to collaborate with Webster Arboretum to build a pergola – Deferred at this time.
  - Lodge rental question forwarded to Parks and Rec.
  - Down tree in Whiting Road and an offer to do trail maintenance work – forwarded to trail steward.
  - Student looking to volunteer – made aware of opportunities.
  - Whiting Road trail marker removed – forwarded to trail steward.
  - Poison Hemlock growing at Maple and Klem - forwarded to Parks and Rec/DEC.
  - Looking for confirmation of donation received – forwarded to Denise.
7. Communications Update- John Boettcher:
  - Email to go out about work party on Saturday July 22 (not 3d Saturday) at Four Mile Creek.
8. Habitat Committee Update- Norma Platt
  - Two work days for clearing invasives on John Ungar and tree maintenance on Hojack trail.

- Plan to have Habitat help with ReTree planting.

## B. Main Topics

### 1. Goals/Priorities

- Trail Use Counting – Sarah/John: Trail counter from International Road Dynamics Inc. is top contender at \$390. Town will need to know when and where to deploy this, and that it doesn't have a camera. Board approved purchase by voice vote up at a cost of up to \$500.
- Insurance – Anna: Received quote, but it was missing some elements. It must include liability, auto, directors and officers. Once we receive a complete quote, we can compare that with other organizations.
- New Forms/Tracking – Anna: **ACTION ITEM: Anna and Sarah will meet to coordinate.**
- Trail Projects Projects/Schedule Flyer for 2023: Anna still needs to update the flyer.
- New Volunteer/Member Form: No update
- Website updates Events/ Registration/Info – Anna: Based on the online registration app that WHEN used, we are looking to add a registration plug-in to our Website. Anna will share information with Board.
- VP Position – Anna: To generate possible candidates, Anna will develop a position description that could be distributed to the membership, and we can also look at recruiting someone who might have interest. **ACTION ITEM: Anna to draft the VP description.**

### 2. Trails Planning & Maintenance:

- Workday #3 Four Mile Creek – Dennis, feedback: Good turn out for creating a new trail from Salt Creek Overlook to Red trail. Nine total volunteers in addition to Board members.
- Workday #4 Four Mile Creek, July 22 – Dennis, plans: Town to deliver stone that will be spread by the Webster XC team.
- Scout Project – Status – Patrick/Dennis: Approximately 10 scouts completed all boardwalk and bench construction on July 8 and 9. Leftover materials were returned for refund of nearly \$500 to credit card account. **ACTION ITEMS: Chris to work with Craig on refund. Dennis will ask Patrick to ask Brody for total volunteer hours.**
- Stewards Vests for Identification, per P&R- Order status – Anna: Order placed and they should be here the first week of August.
- Webster Arboretum request – Anna: As noted above, the Arboretum wanted to collaborate to build a pergola. It could be a possible scout project, but it's not possible at this time.
- Kiosk Info from the P&R – Anna: Parks and Rec will be refreshing all kiosks (except Gosnell) with new paint/stain. They would like all information to be refreshed/reprinted and standardized to include maps, history/information, park

rules, and upcoming events, printed on weather-proof material. **ACTION ITEM:** Denise to photograph existing kiosk materials to be put on Drop Box within the next 2 weeks.

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

- Status of plantings: For 2022 and 2023 plantings through June, it's a 4 percent mortality. Tree cages have bittersweet growing on them that will need to be monitored/removed.
- Nursery has ~125 plants to be moved to the field this fall. Locations for planting to be determined in late summer and proposed to Board.

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

- Grant Funds – Rotary Grant- Bench status, install locations/ schedule- Craig/Patrick: Table until future meeting.
- Webster Chamber of Commerce – Meeting June 23, 2023 – Anna report: Information was well received, with Anna and Parks and Rec presenting.
- Trees Along the Trail Challenge – August 5th – Dennis: Publicity flyer created, with the change to make it a self-guided hike to differentiate it from the scavenger hunts. 5 clues for each tree will be on a handout, with photos of the tree leaf/bark. Need to have volunteers to hand out clues/map; someone to hand out treats at the overlook; scoring table volunteers. Suggestion to have a gift card for the tree for the winners, for planting in the fall, instead of having the actual trees. **ACTION ITEM:** Sarah and Dennis will see if we can put some of the seedlings in the ReTree nursery.
- Fall Scavenger Hunt- Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> Chiyoda Trail - Emily P.
- Hot Cocoa Hike on Nov. 4.

### 5. **Open Space:**

- Gary Woods Community Forrest – Hal: Final property transfer should happen before Fall. Trail building and a bridge will be needed, which would be appropriate for scout projects.

### 6. **Action Items/Open Discussion**

- Going forward, event sign ups will include Denise's email so she can keep track and include anyone who needed notification.
- Town of Webster grant money needs to be spent this year. Approximately \$2k still to be spent. **ACTION ITEM:** Hal to check to see if there are restrictions for what that can be spent on.

### **Promote: Events/Fundraising 2023**

- ✓ **Community Arts Day**, April 15
- ✓ **Workday #1**, Hojack Trail & Hickory Bark - April
- ✓ **Scavenger Hunt**, Earth Day, April 22
- ✓ **ReTree – Earth Day**, Earth Day, April 22
- ✓ **Webster Volunteer Fair**, May 11

- ✓ **Workday #2**, State Rd – May 27
- ✓ **M Johnson Preserve Trail**, Ribbon Cutting/Hike -June 3
- ✓ **Workday #3 Four Mile Creek**, Saturday, June 17 – Dennis
- ✓ **Workday #4 Four Mile Creek** Saturday, July 22 – Dennis
- ✓ **Workday #5 John Ungar Trail**, Saturday Aug 19 – Craig
- ✓ **Workday #6 Location TBD**, Saturday, Sept 16 - Craig
- ✓ **Workday #7 Location TBD**, Saturday, Oct 21 - Craig
- ✓ **Trees Along the Trail Challenge**, Saturday, August 5 - Dennis
- ✓ **Hot Cocoa Hike**, Saturday, November 4 – Denise
- ✓ **Scavenger Hunt**, Saturday, November 4 – Emily P.
- ✓ **Annual Meeting**, Anna
- ✓ **Passport Program Refresh** – Denise
- ✓ Hojack Hike – 2024