

**FWT Board Meeting**  
**August 14, 2023**

**Attendees:** Denise Bilsback; John Bottcher, Pat Fulkerson, Ron Happ, Craig Hulburt, Dennis Kuhn, Norma Platt, Anna Taylor, Sarah White

**A. Administrative Tasks**

1. Approve/Change Agenda: [Update with State Road and Scout presentation](#)
2. Approve Minutes from July 2023 Meeting: [Approved](#)
3. Membership Status- Denise Bilsback:
  1. [233 total membership, 3 new in July](#)
  2. [51 Volunteer hours trail maintenance](#)
  3. [Donations in memoriam Donald Miller total \\$570](#)
4. Review of Treasurer Report - Chris/Lynn Peterson: Report to be distributed
  1. [Balances: Checking \\$11,275.59, Savings \\$24,417.28](#)
  2. [New ReTree summary in the works.](#)
  3. [Meeting with M&T to discuss investment of \\$25k.](#)
  4. [Paypal account may have been hacked, so Chris has obtained a new card.](#)
5. Social Media – Anna Taylor
  1. [FB followers 994](#)
  2. [Meetup 512](#)
6. Website Inquiry Summary – Norma Platt
  1. [Reports of several downed trees for removal.](#)
  2. [Question if class 2 ebikes are permitted on the trails referred to Glenn at Parks & Rec.](#)
7. Communications Update- John Boettcher: [No update](#)
8. Habitat Committee Update - Norma Platt: [36.5 volunteer hours this month for clearing and planting witch hazel, sycamore, and choke cherry in Whiting Road and Big Woods.](#)

**B. Main Topics**

1. Scout project presentation: Cole Featherly of Troop 262
  1. [Install benches and tables: 2 established sites for Michael A. Johnson and 3 sites to be finalized by the end of August for Hojack. The Hojack sites will have to work around utilities.](#)
  2. [Plan to start no later than August 31, to be completed by mid-September.](#)
  3. [Funding request: \\$53 per table.](#)
    - [Approved](#) by voice vote
2. **Goals/Priorities**
  1. Trail Use Counting – Sarah/John/All
    - [Proposal: purchase Diamond Traffic Products \\$550 plus tax](#)
      - o [Approved](#) to spend up to \$700 on counter.
    - [Set up and location must be approved by the town. Sign “Trail Counting in Process” will go on the kiosk.](#)
    - [Proposed locations:](#)

- o Whiting Road Blue Trail north and south from Parking Lot
  - o Gosnell Big Woods.
  - o Hojack at Holt
  - o Four Mile Creek at the first bridge
2. Membership Communication/Email – Denise: Site 5 (the email/Website host company) has changed requirements, making it more difficult to use.
    - Working on using Mail Chimp for mail distribution, currently using free service level. **ACTION ITEM: Denise will investigate the higher service level to see if we should move up a level.**
    - Site 5 is still hosting the Webpage, which is paid through April 2025.
  3. Insurance – Anna/Craig/Chris: Investigation continues, with updated quote to be uploaded to Dropbox. **ACTION ITEM: Anna to upload quote and to pursue additional quotes.**

### 3. Trails Planning & Maintenance:

1. Question if the kiosk on Lake Road on the Sandbar will be replaced. **ACTION ITEM: Anna to check with Glenn to see.**
2. Workday #4 Four Mile Creek, July 22 – Dennis, Feedback: Well attended with work party from XC team, and trail clearing by Tom Traub and John Bottcher.
3. Stewards Vests for Identification– Anna (distribution) – to be distributed.
4. Workday #5 John Ungar Trail, Saturday Aug 19 – Craig: 9am. Brush clearing near the creek. Notice sent by FB and email, Meetup to be sent shortly.
5. Workday #6 State Road, Saturday, Sept 16 – Craig: Plan to finish trail.
6. Workday #7 ReTree, Oct 21: planting in Whiting Road.
7. FWT - Powered equip & Tools – Anna: Policy is that Friends prefers to own minimal equipment to minimize storage and maintenance costs.

### 4. Re-Tree Project: Sarah

1. Developing plan for planting this fall (October Work Day), possibly expanding beyond WRNP.
2. Planning for clearing in the winter.
3. Habitat has contributed to efforts with planting and clearing around previously planted trees/shrubs.
4. Have seen some mortality in WRNP near the smoke house, possibly from Black Walnuts there.
5. Balance is \$3200 with a significant amount to be used for trail clearing.

### 5. Promote: Events/Fundraising 2023:

1. Grant Funds – Rotary Grant- Bench status, install locations/ schedule- Craig/Patrick: scout project to be finished in September.
2. Trees Along the Trail Challenge – August 5th – Dennis, feedback: Reasonable turn out with lots of fun and learning. Leftover trees to be used for ReTree.

3. Webster United Church of Christ, Benefit Concert for FWT Aug 9 – Dennis: [Anna and Dennis represented FWT.](#)
4. Speaker or Activity for Annual Meeting – Anna: [Suggestion to do it at Hickory Bark.](#)
5. FWT Baseball hats, Promo gear – Anna: [Not much interest, but Anna will look into it.](#)

**6. Open Space:**

1. Gary Woods Community Forrest – Hal: [Town Board Resolution to authorize sale planned for this month, which will enable property to be closed on. Official name: Herman Road Forever Wild Forest, Conserved by Gary E and Judith M Wood.](#)

**7. Action Items/Open Discussion**

1. State Road:
  - [Paul DeLapetra agreed to be trail steward.](#)
  - [Six to eight parking spots, plus kiosk to be installed by town.](#)
  - [Approval coming for long \(20+ feet\) bridge, and scout waiting to do the work. Two smaller bridges also needed.](#)
  - [Picnic area to be investigated as a scout project.](#)

**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
- ✓ **Workday #4 Four Mile Creek** Saturday, July 22
- ✓ **Trees Along the Trail Challenge**, Saturday, August 5
- ✓ **Webster United Church of Christ**, Benefit Concert for the FWT Aug 9
- ✓ **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
- ✓ **Hot Cocoa Hike**, Saturday, November 4 – Denise
- ✓ **Scavenger Hunt**, Saturday, November 4 – Emily P.
- ✓ **Annual Meeting**
- ✓ For 2024: Hojack Hike