

## **FWT Board Meeting**

**Oct 9, 2023**

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

**Guest:** Tom Traub

### **A. Administrative Tasks**

1. Approve/Change Agenda – [Add Open Space item](#)
2. Approve Minutes from Sept 2023 Meeting - [Approved](#)
3. Membership Status- Denise Bilsback: [Detailed report distributed to Board via email.](#)
  - [242 members – up 6](#)
  - [\\$595 in monthly donations](#)
  - [Monthly volunteer hours 295](#)
4. Review of Treasurer Report - Chris/Lynn Peterson: [Detailed report put in Dropbox](#)
  - [Just over \\$36k total](#)
  - [Continued investigation of compromised card expenses, with all being reversed.](#)
  - [Meeting with bank for investment options: CD or money market account. Recommend an 8-month CD at 5 percent for \\$20k. \*\*Approved by voice vote.\*\*](#)
  - [Recommend budget exercise in December/January for priorities.](#)
  - [Parks & Rec will have a budget line of \\$2500 for Friends in 2024.](#)
5. Social Media – Anna Taylor
  - [FB – 1000 – YAY!](#)
  - [Meetup - 542](#)
  - [Including more posts about events on our trails.](#)
6. Website Inquiry Summary – Norma Platt
  - [Trees down in the Big Woods – reported and removed.](#)
  - [Trees down in Webster Park – forwarded to Monroe County.](#)
  - [Volunteer for State Road steward – Paul Della Pietra approved. \*\*ACTION ITEM: Need to add Paul to the Website.\*\*](#)
  - [Request to confirm membership – forwarded to Denise for Membership.](#)
  - [Inquiry about volunteer opportunities – provided information.](#)
7. Communications Update - John Boettcher
  - [Thanks to all for newsletter contributions.](#)
  - [Advertise annual meeting in the NL. Hickory Bark on the Saturday 11/18 at 1pm with Library as backup.](#)
8. Habitat Committee Update - Norma Platt
  - [Tree planting in Big Woods from ReTree nursery.](#)
  - [Removal of invasive Norway maples.](#)
  - [Planting native seeds.](#)

### **B. Main Topics**

1. **Knights of Columbus grant application** – Tom Traub provided information on the grant process. Application due December 15. Best projects have an impact on the community, and cost can be \$5000 or more. Consider something like the State Road bridge or projects in

Herman Road. **ACTION ITEM: Anna to brainstorm with Hal and distribute to the Board.**

2. **Scout Update** – Hojack Trail Benches – Patrick: Any status update?  
**ACTION ITEM: Anna to reach out.**

3. **Goals/Priorities**

- Trail Use Counting – John S: Proposal sent to Parks & Rec, with approval to include a notice that trail counting will happen. Counter being ordered.
- Insurance – Anna: Another quote received, but needs amendment. Anna will send out summary to Board
- Passport Program Refresh – Denise: Program to be updated in partnership with Parks & Recs. Considering launching new program with a hike event in 2024.
- Website updates – Sarah/Anna: Rich McNeary to help with design to make it easier to update. He will work with Steve to implement changes.
- Email Distribution – Denise: Everything to the members has to go through Denise for MailChimp distribution. Emails to the board should use Google Groups.

4. **Trails Planning & Maintenance:**

- Stewards Vests – Anna (distribution)
- Workday #6 State Rd, Saturday, Sept 16 – feedback: 7 Attendees
- Workday #7 Re-Tree WRNP, Saturday, Oct 21 at 9am
- Trails Chair Update – Anna/Craig: Craig is going to step down at the end of the year, so need someone new.
- Suggestion to put trail work sign up a week in advance of workday to increase visibility.

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

- More than 220 trees/shrubs planted YTD in WRNP and Gosnell (with 75+ by Genesee Land Trust).
- Workday on 10/21 to plant more in WRNP with 4 planting areas. Ideally need at least 12 volunteers.

6. **Promote: Events/Fundraising 2023/24:**

- Town of Webster Employee Wellness Fair Sept 27 – Dennis: Hal and Dennis hosted table for 4 hours, with reasonable turn out and complimentary feedback.
- Grant Funds
  - Grant status – all set for current grants.
  - K of C 2024 Application *see above*
- New Social Media Coordinator - Proposal – Anna: New member offered to volunteer to do our social media. Approved her to make sure all accounts are linked this year, and to start working on posts for 2024.
- Annual Meeting - Proposed outdoor location/date – All: Hickory Bark platform on 11/19 at 1pm.
- Hot Cocoa hike to be held in Gosnell Big Woods. November 4.

7. **Open Space:**

- Gary Woods Community Forrest – Ron/Hal. Map needs to be standardized before being added to Website. Denise has walked the trail, but it needs blazes and trail signs. **ACTION ITEM: Hal will send**

**Denise's map to Trail Steward and work with Town to have updated map on the Website.**

**8. Action Items/Open Discussion**

- Trailer – Anna
- Interactive map on Website. It gets a lot of hits, but it isn't in same format as other maps. Mapping group to look at updating this.
- State Road trail map to be added to Website.

**Promote: Events/Fundraising 2023**

- ✓ **Community Arts Day**, April 15
- ✓ **Workday #1**, Hojack Trail & Hickory Bark - April
- ✓ **Scavenger Hunt**, Earth Day, April 22
- ✓ **Re-Tree – 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
- ✓ **Workday #6** State Rd Preserve, Saturday, Sept 16
- ✓ **Town of Webster Employee Wellness Fair**, Sept 27 - Dennis ○
- ✓ **Workday #7** Re-Tree WRNP, Saturday, Oct 21
- ✓ **Hot Cocoa Hike**, Saturday, November 4 – Denise
- ✓ **Scavenger Hunt**, Saturday, November 4 – Emily P.
- ✓ **Annual Meeting**, Anna
- ✓ Passport Program Refresh – Denise
- ✓ Hojack Hike – 2024

**Prior Board Meeting Action items:**

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Status O/C</b>
1	Report of FWT assets: Sarah to work with Anna to create consolidated report.	<b>C</b>
2	New benches: Craig and Norma will provide Anna and Patrick with the locations for the benches.	
3	Rotary grant: Anna to provide Rotary with an update.	
4	Chris/Norma to work with Norma on how to track ReTree expenses and grant.	
5	Anna/Sarah: New Forms/Tracking Acres of open space and miles of Trails maintained by FWT	
6	Anna to draft the VP description.	
7	Scout Project: Chris to work with Craig on refund. Dennis will follow up with Patrick for Brody's total volunteer hours.	
8	Denise to photograph existing kiosk materials photos on Drop Box w/in 2 wks.	<b>C</b>
9	Sarah/Dennis to see if we can put some seedlings in the ReTree nursery.	