

FRIENDS OF NORTHWEST PARK 11/11/07

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Next meeting January 9th at 7pm in the Nature Center Page 1 of 3

Present: Ruth Casagrande, Jay Melley, Heidi Lindberg, Randy Lee, Ford Parker, Dick Dolliver, Bill Harrys, Ev Dowe, Bill Schoner, Lauren Grimshaw, Nancy Taylor, Michael Novak, Kate Lange, Linda Alexander, Paul Norris, Kathryn Grimshaw, Ann Allen, Tom Deshais, Dawn Morgan, Terry Langevin

Regrets: Chuck Drake, Mary Hogan, Mickey Mattei, Carol MacMullen

Absent: Chris Alford, Florence Barlow, Al Boehm, John Carmon, Vivian Cicero, Tim Curtis, Kate Ferris-Morrel, Mary Hogan, Linda Kollmorgan, Lesley Mogan Thompson, Lon Pelton, Debby Silliman

Welcome: Jay Melley opened the meeting at 3:15pm and acknowledged Veterans Day. After introductions, the October minutes were accepted unanimously.

Presentation: Jay Melley and Ford Parker gave a presentation highlighting the past year at Northwest Park. Jay acknowledged the first Friends meeting was held on April 13, 1981 with Ev Dowe and Bill Schoner attending this meeting. October in 1981, the Friends had just over \$854 in their treasury. Today we have come a long way for this 501C3 organization and have roughly ten times that. What a great volunteer group. Here we are because we think we are doing something positive and there are the results. The slide show can be seen in the exhibit area with a stack of membership brochures available to anyone viewing. Many thanks to Ford who spent the better part of a week helping present the Friends in such a great way!

Paul Norris suggested this presentation be made to the new Town Council coming on board shortly.

Tom Deshais and Kathryn Grimshaw, the current education staff at the Park were introduced and Tom presented. He said the Park is doing more things that cannot be done at schools. He pointed out the Stream Table for middle school programs, structural geology of Connecticut materials for high schoolers and soil analysis programs for 2nd graders. These are all hands on programs, “No child left inside”.

Treasurers Report: Randy Lee provided two handouts attached. The IRS has accepted our last year’s tax return. Our Fiscal Year is July 1 to June 30. Our balance to

date is \$82,330.44. The Fidelity account has been liquidated. The Accounting review is in process. Many thanks to Randy for the time you have put in to get to this point! The Report was accepted unanimously.

A reminder to all Trustees must submit changes to their work and or personal information to the Secretary as they occur.

Budget Presentations: For Earth Day, a motion was made to provide Dawn Morgan up to \$200. It passed unanimously.

Staff Requests by Ford Parker were handed out (see attached). A motion was made to approve FY09 budget for \$15,400. Ammendments approved were an addition of \$300 to 6a and the approval of Eric Davison work pending Town Budget approval results. After discussion below, the Motion was approved unanimously for a total of \$15,700.

Discussion: Linda Alexander read a note from Chuck Drake. Concerns: YCC had only 3 last summer with waning interest and the monies could be better spend on public programming. Tents: we funded tents in the past, what has happened to them and if we purchase new ones, REI has stated they give deals to 501C3's. The Butterfly garden is high maintenance and if it isn't maintained, even \$300 is too much. Wood chips are free and better than stone dust. Field Habitat work needs a detailed report. The windmill sign is not money well spent, instead alternative energy source programming. A separate comment was made to have the Town pursue grants. Stone dust is necessary for handicap access to any area. YCC had 4 applicants this year as opposed to 17 the year before which will be looked into as to why this occurred. The butterfly garden is not a cultivated garden and is planted for butterflies who need weeds. The sensory saunter trail requires grasses which make it look messy. It will officially open in July. A suggestion was made to Paul Norris to work hard on getting Eric Davison 100% paid for in the budget. Another suggestion was to have Eric report to the Friends on an annual basis.

Membership Report: Dawn Morgan reported that there are 360 members on file with approximately 280 active and current. Since the membership renewal letters just went out, hopefully more people will renew. (Feel free to get a new member yourselves!)

Nominating Committee: Terry Langevin reported for the Committee. Attached is a summary. All candidates were unanimously approved and Lisa Bress will be taking Mary Hogan's place on the Committee.

Newsletter: Kathryn Grimshaw was introduced as the editor and all articles can be submitted to her at the Park. All Trustees are encouraged to submit items of interest.

Founders Celebration Proposal: Nancy Taylor, Florence Barlow, Bill Harrys, and Dawn Morgan have volunteered to set up a surprise celebration for the Founding members along with appropriate recognition ideas. We are hoping Mickey Mattei will chair the Group.

Old Business: Jay Melley agreed to set up a meeting with the membership committee which will include Dawn Morgan, Chuck Drake, Kate Lange, Lauren Grimshaw, and Heidi Lindberg. Immediate item pending is the writing of the thank-you notes which Nancy Taylor has so graciously been doing. Due to wrist injuries, someone else needs to take over the function. Thank-you Nancy for writing all the thank-you's for the Friends this past year. Kathryn will call Colonial and have the brochures reprinted to reflect the recent membership category approvals.

New Business: Congratulations to Vivan Cicero, on being elected Constable. The Country Fair will be chaired by Nancy Taylor and Kate Ferris-Morrell next year and will be held September 20th. They were applauded and thanked for this year's effort! A motion was made by Bill Schoner and seconded that Trustees at this meeting approve all the actions taken by the Executive Committee on behalf of the Friends this past year. It was approved unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was approved at 5:15pm.

The next meeting is January 9th, 2008. Happy Holidays! Respectfully submitted,

Terry Langevin, Secretary

Friends of Northwest Park - Income & Expenses - FY 2006 and 2007

	2005-06	2006-07
Income		
Dividend	\$0	\$428
Dues	\$7,456	\$5,641
Gifts	\$8,550	\$2,969
Concert	\$14,401	\$5,048
Country Fair	\$15,277	\$19,450
Pancake Breakfast	\$0	\$2,149
Interest	\$409	\$743
Other	\$0	\$3,989
Total	\$46,093	\$40,417
Expense		
Awards & Gifts	\$282	\$202
Bank Fees	\$106	\$77
Fees-Permits	\$200	\$160
Insurance	\$1,382	\$1,383
Computer	\$200	\$200
Equipment	\$334	\$277
NWPassage	\$64	\$170
Postage	\$285	\$56
Projects	\$35,041	\$10,140
Concert	\$9,131	\$0
Country Fair	\$8,840	\$10,731
Pancake Breakfast	\$344	\$340
Shad Derby	\$80	\$125
Scholarship Fund	\$7,269	\$5,625
YCC	\$3,000	\$0
Other		
TOTAL	\$66,558	\$29,486
Country Fair Net	\$6,437	\$8,719
Concerts Net	\$5,270	\$5,048
2007 Country Fair Net		\$4,715

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

NOVEMBER 11, 2007

OFFICERS(2 year term): *President:* Jay Melley

Treasurer: Randy Lee

TRUSTEES(3 year term expiring 2010):

Renewing: Linda Alexander
Terry Langevin
Mickey Mattei
Mike Novak
Debby Silliman

New: Lauren Grimshaw
Kathryn(Kate) Lange
Heidi Lindberg

We wish to thank John Carmon, Mary Hogan and Linda Kollmorgan for their past commitment as Trustees. Each of them expressed their continued support for the Park and their ongoing commitment to volunteer for the functions they have in the past. Again, thank you for all you do and have done for Northwest Park!

**Strategic Spending Plan Proposal
Northwest Park: Fiscal Years 2009 & 2010**

**Specific funding requests for FY09 and FY10 as to the general
funding areas established by the Friends of Northwest Park:**

<u>A. Environmental Education</u>	<u>FY09</u>	<u>FY10</u>
	<u>7/1/08-6/30/09</u>	<u>7/1/09-6/30/10</u>
1. Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) Part-time wages for two YCC youth workers @ \$1,500 each.	\$3,000	\$3,000
2. Internships Part-time wages for the spring (\$1,800) and fall (\$1,800) college internships.	\$3,600	\$3,600
3. Summer Camp Tents Six dome tents for Nature Day Camp and Campout Under the Stars.	\$1,500	\$1,500
4. Environmental Education Equipment (2) Bioscopes, water and soil test kits, propane burners and nichrome wires.	\$1,000	\$1,000
5. Refurbishing of the Nature Center Sign Cleaning and re-painting of the front entry sign.	\$500	
6. Specimen Mounting Permits were secured to mount a number of native Species for exhibit within the Nature Center.	\$1,000 (+300 approved)	\$1,000
<u>B. Land Care & Conservation</u>		
7. Butterfly Garden Seeding Addition of perennial and annual plants, used as both nectaring and host plants by native butterflies, in the new butterfly garden..	\$300	\$300
8. Sensory Saunter Trail Surface Material. 20 tons of stone dust to finish the trail.	\$500	
9. Habitat Field Work Monitoring and managing the habitat fields by consultant Eric Davison (an additional \$1,500 to be paid by the Town of Windsor)	\$1,500	\$1,500
<u>C. Environmentally Sustainable Practices</u>		
10. Organic Garden Demonstration Area Walkway stone, information signs, seeds, plants, soil and fencing	\$1,500	\$400
11. Animal Barn Signs Corrected and updated heritage breed signs.	\$1,000	
12. Windmill Education Sign Embedded fiberglass sign on an angled panel.		\$2,500
	<u>FY09</u>	<u>FY10</u>
Proposed Totals:	\$15,400	\$14,800
-Over- (Approved Total)	\$15,700)	

The following is a list of items needed for further improvement of programs and grounds. Suggestions of funding or donation sources is always welcomed.

Wish List

Mission Ground Truth Connecticut	\$50,000*
Pond Restoration:	\$50,000
15 Passenger Van (hybrid):	25,000
Nature Center Carpet Replacement:	15,000
Maple Sugaring Museum (renovated garage):	10,000
New Nature Center Air Conditioner:	10,000

This is a 2-day grades 6-8 technology program involving computer labs, GPS systems, radios and measuring equipment to scientifically determine the health of the Northwest Park forest ecosystem. An additional \$80,000 will be sought in State and Federal funds.