

Forever Wild Foundation, LTD Minutes

September 29, 2024

3rd Meeting

Location: The Forever Wild Tavern, 140 NY-10, Arietta, NY

In attendance: Jenny Smith, Rod Lang, Wendy Sullivan, Deb Hutchinson, Tim Hutchinson, Dicky Hart

Excused: Matt Sullivan

Guests: Jim and Genia Meinhold

Jenny called the meeting to order at 7:13 PM.

Jenny introduced guests, Jim and Genia Meinhold

Wendy moved to accept the minutes from last month, with no corrections or additions. Dicky 2nd the motion. All in favor

Treasurer Report: (Jenny provided the report as we still do not have a treasurer)

Total: \$5,548.00 (\$100 cash deposit, \$1,000 contribution, \$4,438 kayak poker run)

Jenny reported a deposit of \$336.96 from Paypal Charities. (Jenny will get a breakdown for our next meeting). Paypal Charities is sending swipe card readers for accepting donations.

Andrew Ormiston's birthday party contribution to FWF: Facebook fundraiser total \$87.00; cash donations at the bar \$136.00 (Wendy and Tim verified the amount); these monies to be deposited prior to next meeting. Jenny is keeping a spreadsheet.

Deb asked if the checks were ordered. Jenny stated that she is holding off to order checks until the official logo is determined. Currently, purchases are paid through Paypal.

Unfinished Business:

Wendy will send a thank you to Andrew for his donation. His contact information is: Andrew Ormiston, 190 State Hwy 10, Caroga Lake, NY 12032

Wendy will send a thank you to David Crawford, for the \$250 disaster relief grant.

Jenny shared the sticker design selected at the last meeting. Jenny has applied the stickers to bar glasses, but they do not withstand high heat in commercial dishwashers. Genia suggested using Cricut as a tool for creating stickers. Genia also suggested etching, which would be longer lasting. Deb will reach out to her daughter Kati to check on possible Cricut options.

Jenny stated that Seth Balliett is busy but willing to work with us to create a logo. Rod stated that we need a deadline.

Wendy stated that Matt's office has a marketing coordinator that could be of assistance to us. Wendy stated that Matt will reach out to her for possible assistance with the logo.

The FWF Facebook page is still a work in progress. Jenny suggested that members of our group share the nonprofit page on social media. This is an easy way to get the word out.

Rounding Up the Change - Dicky reported that the process is not difficult. This is a nonprofit donation platform for collecting money from donors. We will need to present a well written description of our nonprofit, to be presented at the businesses we choose. Wendy will take on this project for writing something up for our nonprofit.

Jenny provided a copy of our bylaws. Jim suggested a shorter Mission Statement.

New Business:

Upcoming **fundraising** raffle discussion. Possibly during hunting or snowmobile season. This topic was tabled until the next meeting.

Jenny asked for advice from Jim and Genia regarding **committees**. Genia described standing committees as permanent committees and ad hoc committees as temporary. She advised not to have too many committees. Jim suggested throwing all of our ideas up on the wall and narrowing what we want to work on; the organization could get stretched too thin. A goal for the next meeting is to come up with a list of committees and a potential key person as chair for each committee (Jim suggested choosing people with a particular skill set as chair for each committee).

In terms of **donations**, Jim stated that a lot of places need a 6 to 12 week notice. Allow for the time. Many businesses need to reach out to their corporate office. Genia talked about donations from Stewarts. They are one of the few businesses that donate on the spot. One of the committees could deal strictly with donations.

Genia suggested **education and outreach**. Jenny spoke about why she wanted to start this foundation. When she started renting kayaks, she noticed that the waterways were becoming littered. She did not want to be associated with being part of a negative impact on the waterways or public trails in the Southern Adirondacks. Tim suggested stewardship as one of our committees. Discussion took place regarding the Forever Wild Tavern as an education venue. Tim is a member of the NY Trails Council. He talked about ways the council could possibly help our foundation. Tim stated that they could be a resource for community outreach and education.

Jim is willing to help write **grants**. Jim talked about the different avenues for grants and that all grants require a discrete plan. Genia pointed out that we are an underserved area and that could work in our favor, in terms of grants. Jim pointed out that the state understands the importance of tourism. Genia stressed the importance of starting small. People who will give money, will want to see the progress and success of our foundation. Jim stated that we have a fiduciary responsibility as a nonprofit. Jenny stressed the importance of keeping the nonprofit and business clearly separate. Jenny is registered with the charities bureau.

Jim stated that state grants require a partnership with nonprofit and municipality. Dicky stated that DEC stated that this area doesn't have animal rehab; DEC would be a good partner. Jenny suggested inviting someone from DEC as an upcoming guest.

Tim talked about the Trails Council and their grants relating to stream and trail erosion. This could benefit everyone. Tim will check into this.

Jim will look at our mission and vision to determine possible grants. We will need to look at **projects** and costs of projects. A majority of grantors have certain specifics within a county. We would need to meet the criteria. Jenny is certified to take in wildlife. Jenny cannot take in domestic animals, it is separate from wild animals and handled by the SPCA. Jenny needs a place on the property to house the potential animals for rehabilitation. Two sheds are in need of maintenance and could serve this purpose. The smaller shed needs the least amount of work. Jim stated that the shed would be a good **first project** to spell out for a possible grant. Rod volunteered to take on the project. He will provide a needs assessment for the next meeting.

Looking for someone to help with **tree cutting**. Patrick Vedder has been busy with storm cleanup and unable to help with tree cutting. Ed Scharpou was suggested as a good resource for tree cutting. Deb will reach out to him.

Other:

Jenny is registered with the charities bureau.

Jim stated that we will have to submit a tax return.

Tim suggested that we have an agenda for the next meeting.

Thank you to Jim and Genia for attending our meeting. Contact information for Jim and Genia:

Genia Meinhold, gkm0828@gmail.com, (203) 767-9852

Jim Meinhold, jmeinhold@gmail.com, (203) 803-6196

Next meeting: Sunday, October 27, 2024 @ 7:00 PM. Location: Forever Wild Tavern

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Deb motioned to adjourn at 8:40 PM and Tim 2nd the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by,
Deb Hutchinson
Recording Secretary