

Forever Wild Foundation Minutes

July 2, 2025 - 6:00 PM

6th Meeting

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

BOD: Wendy Sullivan, Tim Hutchinson, Dickie Hart

Attendance: Jenny Smith, Rod Lang, Wendy Sullivan, Deb Hutchinson, Tim Hutchinson, Dickie Hart, Margaret Beekman, Matt Sullivan, Larry Smith

Jenny called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Rod moved to accept the minutes from last month; Wendy seconded the motion. All in favor

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

Checking Account Total: \$5,888.15

In addition to checking:

\$300 total donations from Paypal (\$100 Heidi Christiansen and \$200 Lynn Morck)

Jenny will transfer the Paypal amounts to the checking account

Wendy will send a thank you for both donations

Jenny paid \$15.00 for the font design

Dickie and Tim counted the money from the donation box on the bar - \$137 to be deposited.

Rod made a motion to accept the treasurer's report; Tim seconded the report. All in favor

Director's Report:

Grants - Update on North Country Wild Care Grant for caging

Rod distributed the grant application/photo for a large mammal cage (to include deer). Total cost is \$2,758.63. Discussion took place regarding an electric fence to protect the caged animals. Rod will adjust the grant to include the electric fence. Rod will submit the grant soon.

Volunteers for rehabilitation of animals

Insurance for volunteers - Jenny checked with her insurance agent for coverage. \$5,000 to start for minimum coverage. Due to high cost, Jenny will not provide insurance and volunteers will need to sign a waiver. Wendy shared an example of a waiver from [Animalkind.NY](https://www.animalkind.ny.gov/) Jenny will create a waiver.
Current volunteers: Abby Vandewalker and Joe Oathout

Reimbursements

Check #263 was written in the amount of \$1,157.25, to reimburse Jenny for rehabilitation supplies and kayaks for the Poker Run.

Committees Reports:

Building of Habitat Structure- Rod Lang

Discussion took place regarding possible solutions to move the habitat structure. Tentative date to start the process of moving the shed - July 22nd @ 6 PM. Where the building will be placed will be determined prior to July 22nd.

Waterway Cleanup - Matt Sullivan/Chair, Dickie Hart and Larry Smith/Vice Chairs

Larry, Matt, Wendy, Bob Conklin, and Lynn Morck worked for an entire day to clear the waterway from the first bridge of the West Branch to Mel's place. A week later, Wendy, Deb, Margaret, and Barb Luthi checked the waterway. It is currently passable, except for the beaver dam past the 2nd bridge (the beavers rebuilt what was cleared by the initial cleanup crew). That area will need to be cleared prior to the Poker Run. The waterway is low in some areas. Larry suggested raking out small channels if needed. Larry also suggested an additional cleanup day after the Poker Run to remove debris on the banks of the river. Winches are needed to make the work faster and easier. Dickie will look for a rope donation.

Wildlife Rescue - Monthly intakes, stabilizations, releases - Jenny Smith

All cages are full. 2 skunks stabilized. 1 opossum stabilized and transferred. 1 rabbit and 2 squirrels are ready for release.

Jenny has developed a good rapport with DEC in both Montgomery and Hamilton counties.

Fundraising - Margaret Beekman/Chair

Kayak Poker Run - Margaret Beekman/Chair

Saturday, July 12th

Set up Friday night and early Saturday morning. Dickie will supply tents. Basket raffles are coming in from a variety of donors.

Larry has 3 tables. Wendy and Matty will supply tables and a large white cooler. Margaret needs the names of basket donations to label paper bags. Jenny will create a poster board to show rescued animals. Deb reached out to Axis for possible volunteers to assist with kayaks at the boat ramp. No commitment from them at this point; however, they did post the event on their community page.

Donation Boxes at establishments

Boxes will be distributed by Wendy after the Kayak Poker Run. Members will take responsibility of collecting money from different locations (to be discussed at the August meeting)

Unfinished Business:

Mission Statement Tim made a motion to accept the mission statement as written; Rod seconded the motion. Jenny will post the mission statement on the FWF website. The mission statement will be reviewed in one year

Mission Statement:

"The Forever Wild Foundation provides services to maintain the southern Adirondacks' natural beauty and recreational opportunities. We do this through maintenance of New York State trails, riverways, and lakes. We are also a fully licensed wildlife rehab in the early stages of building our rescue services, providing education and assistance with injured animals."

New Business**Food at Meetings:**

Food for our meetings will be served Potluck style. Members will bring something to share.

Membership requirements:

We now have a sign up sheet for each meeting. To be voted in, a potential member will be required to attend 3 meetings. Recognition will be given to members who participate. Hours worked will be logged and tracked. Jenny suggested incentivizing members.

Membership is \$5, to be paid at the first meeting.

A sign up sheet for potential FWF members will be available at the Poker Run.

Jenny will send out the Bylaws for the 2nd reading. Any potential changes are due to Jenny prior to the August 6th meeting.

Tabled until next meeting:

Login and Password for Paypal and NBT

Roadside Cleanup

Additional River Cleanup

Education and Outreach

Tree Cutting

Next general meeting: Wednesday, August 6, 2025 @ 6:00 PM. Location: Forever Wild Tavern

Meeting adjourned: Dickie motioned to adjourn at 7:52 PM; Tim seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by,

Deb Hutchinson

Recording Secretary