

**Minutes of the
Forest Town Nature Conservation Group (FTNCG)
Trustees & Ann Meetings, 26th & 30th May 2022,
at the Downen Residence**



Registered Charity No. 1157957

Present on 26th May: Shlomo, Lorraine, Josh, Phil, Mark and Ann

Present on 30th May: Shlomo, Lorraine, Dennis and Samantha

Apologies: Alan

AGM preparations

- The draft Report & Accounts, circulated to all Trustees in advance of the meeting, was discussed page by page, and unanimously approved by Trustees after being proposed by Lorraine and seconded by Mark.
- All Trustees agreed to carry on as FTNCG Trustees.
- Trustees further discussed the financial arrangements of the AGM – Kingsway Hall will provide urn, mugs, plates, tea, etc. and room for £131.60 (£38 per hour for 4 hours (9:30am – 1:30pm) less 20% community group discount, plus £10 for urn = £131.60).
- Practical arrangements for the AGM were considered, e.g. in relation to transporting the display, buying and bringing along nibbles, etc. with Phil and Ann agreeing to help. Shlomo suggested a refreshment budget of around £40. Ann suggested we use name tags.
- There was also discussion about promoting the AGM (via posters, social media, website).

Project updates

- FTNCG has secured funds through a successful M2M bid to pay Andy 5 more payments of £150 each for half day Wednesday sessions on 6th July, 28th September, 19th October, 23rd November and 7th December 2022 (in addition to the £150 payment made for soggy half day on 11th May).
- Bids have been submitted to pay EMEC for aquatic and terrestrial invertebrate surveys.
- Lorraine and Shlomo updated Trustees regarding Tuesday's meeting at Spa Ponds with EMEC's Dave Sutton, in preparation for a bid (to be submitted in August) for work on the pipes, paths, and ponds at Spa Ponds.
- Trustees discussed progress towards the Severn Trent Community Fund bid (10% Fund).
- FTNCG is awaiting funds from M2M (£300), RPA (£1,000), and LocalGiving (£500).
- The Mormons have made some bird & bat boxes to be installed by them in late summer.
- Trustees were pleased to learn more about M2M access project plans for barrier on the Woodhouse side of Packman's bridge, including: removing both horse stiles / step throughs; regrading the slope with a couple of wide steps to help prevent slippage and run off, making the area at the water's edge and on the slope much safer and easier to negotiate for legitimate users. On the approach to the bridge from the lane, the plan is to install a new horse stile, to current BHS standards, so it will be wider than the current ones. This will be relocated to the narrow point in the lane, approximately where the wooden fence is, so that horses have plenty of room for manoeuvre safely away from the water's edge. Either side of the horse stile chunky timber bollards will be installed in the ground to limit access but allow cyclists and walkers to pass through easily. According to Rachael Rickell, Connecting Trails Lead Officer, Miner2Major Landscape Partnership, the next step is for her to get some plans drawn up and some contractors on site to discuss and quote for the works.

- Shlomo told Trustees about M2M plans to produce a couple of videos in conjunction with the Clipstone-Rainworth Landowners group (of which FTNCG is a member).
- Trustees discussed the Landscape Recovery bid being worked up by Notts Wildlife Trust
- Trustees agreed that Josh should be paid to refresh / revamp the FTNCG website. Ann suggested adding information about ID apps (such as Seek, Candide, BirdNet), and links to other resources that might be of interest.

Water quality testing

- Phil took over primary responsibility for water quality testing from Richard in 2016! Phil further developed the testing regime, including by producing a risk assessment. Monthly results were repetitive, so pivoted to quarterly testing. Phil was in the process of training others when Covid disrupted this process. Phil is hoping we can identify (at the AGM) at least two volunteers for training in water quality testing who will take over from Phil.
- In the future, water quality testing is to be carried out quarterly (around 21st of March, June, September, and December).
- Phil agreed to continue to represent FTNCG, alongside Shlomo, at Sherwood Water Catchment Partnership meetings.
- The Environment Agency's Ian Johnson has offered training to help us interpret results.

First Aid training

- On-line options available, but inferior to face-to-face training.
- Shlomo to continue to liaise with Lee of WatersideCare for First Aid support / funding.

Action: Shlomo to chase up Lee re: covering the cost (and assessing the suitability) of the First aid training on offer at Kingsway Hall (21st June 2022), and report back to Trustees.

Management Plan objectives March – August

- Lorraine presented an excerpt from the Spa Ponds Management Plan focussing on activities that can be carried out at Spa Ponds from March – August each year.

FTNCG activities other than at Spa Ponds

- Trustees discussed a number of activities that FTNCG could undertake, including a walkover of the land on the other side of the Clipstone Road housing development through to Station Road (the boundary between Forest Town and Clipstone).
- Other opportunities include revisiting Vale Close Plantation, litter picking at Queensway Park (in conjunction with the Friends Group), and encouraging more wildlife recording across the whole of Forest Town.

Rhythm of future Trustees meetings

- Trustees explored a number of options for future meetings and agreed to hold the next Trustees meeting in August / September at the Downen residence, with a meeting / gathering in a public venue that could be shared with other Forest Town conservation / heritage groups. It was also agreed that if any Trustee thought that additional meeting would be helpful to discuss a particular matter then they could request one to avoid scheduling meetings for the sake of having meetings.

Any other business

- Mark and Phil reiterated their support for Josh to be paid to improve the FTNCG website, and for other Trustees (e.g. Shlomo and Samantha) to be paid to carry out the administration of the Pipes, Paths, and Ponds project (if successful).
- Phil shared his confusion about FTNCG various Facebook pages, and Lorraine clarified that photos of Spa Ponds should be uploaded to the Spa Ponds Facebook page.