

Friends of the Tonto National Forest
Minutes for Board Meeting 27 December 2021

Attending via Zoom were Brian Stultz, Don Pike, Scott Wood, Patti Fenner, Dayan Anderson, Dave Ettelson, Helene Tack, Pete Allard, Susan Sridharan, Trent Shue, and Urb Weidner

6:00pm Call to order – Brian

President's Report – Brian

- Elections to the Friends' Board will be moved to January to provide at least 30 days for the members in which to vote.

Executive Director's Report – Patti

- Need signatures for Strategic Plan: John, Ann, Pete, Trent, Eric
- Finance Committee Chair – Looking for a volunteer to manage this. May result in the need for a part time paid position.
- First Aid Training will be arranged for interested Board members. There are a number of options for the training, which will be evaluated by Patti. Urb will provide input as to an organization which recently trained AZ Sierra Club leaders for \$35/person.
- Bylaws' update – Committee formed to include Scott, Helene, Patti, and Urb.

Treasurer's Report – Susan (Financial report details submitted by Suzan to the Friends' data base)

- The 2021 Year End Report and report for January, 2022, will be completed for the January Board meeting.
- Have not yet received any money from the Giving Tuesday; however, donations were made, and money expected via Facebook. Patti will check the mailbox to see if money received.
- Combined Federal Campaign has not been successful, and, as there is a cost to participate, will not be done in 2022. It appears that the Forest Service employees may not have been notified.

Communications Committee Report -

- Elizabeth will be leaving the committee chair position. We will look for person with Facebook and web site expertise to chair the committee. Jenn Nerat will also step down from the committee.
- Dayan offered to assist on the Communications Committee. May be able to work with CAZCA
- Elizabeth has been working on a brochure for DFFM regarding Buffel and Fountain Grass removal in the Superstition Mtns and Gold Canyon areas. Don said Stinknet and Sahara Grass have been added. Brochure is in our Google Drive, and, when completed to be mailed to residents in the areas. The intent is to send the brochure in the same timeframe as work is being done in the Superstitions.
- Request for communications assistance will be added to the election material being sent to members. It was suggested by Urb that, along with the election related material, we solicit for assistance across a number of areas in which we are involved.

Cultural Resources Committee Report – Scott

- Getting close to resolution for the pipe rail for Shoofly. Have one bid and expect another by Jan 5th. Will be able to get into the budget, submit a grant, and be finished by Spring. Plan to use the pipe donated to us by Cave Creek. Brian suggested looking into the Heritage grants.

Natural Resources Committee Report

- Noxious Weed Grant - Don
Project reports for SPA and DFFM due in January and being worked on by Don.
Will be herbicide work on Stinknet in January. If no Stinknet, will do manual removal of Buffel Grass. Patti had suggested use of Milestone instead of Roundup, which should be a better alternative. There have been some difficulties recruiting the planned upon crew size.
East Valley Backcountry Horsemen will assist by packing in the herbicide to the site. Brian said Wild AZ may also be able to provide support.
- Water Source Inventory Project – Trent
Meeting will be arranged with Kelly to plan the monitoring in the Spring.
- Milkweed for Monarchs: Susan – Wildcat and Rattlesnake locations

Plantings are doing well. So far have planted over 200 plants. Will plan for additional plantings in 2022.

- Milkweed: Patti - Phon D

Seeds have sprouted and some new plants have come up from plantings a few years ago.

Membership Committee Report – (Pete submitted report in advance via email)

- 41 individual, 24 family, and 5 organization memberships
- A renewal notice for 2022 dues was sent to members in November.
- As of 12/26/21, a total of 30 memberships have been paid for 2022.
- Pete will step down as Chair; however, will still send out emails and maintain the lists for the bulk emails to the organization.

Central AZ Conservation Alliance (CAZCA) Liaison report – Dayan

- Dayan showed graphics regarding the Sonoran Seed Summit, which is scheduled for April 5, 2022, at the Desert Botanical Garden. Those with expertise and/or interest in seed related items will attend. Will be a cost to cover the lunch will be around \$40.
- Brian asked if we could have a table at the Summit. Also, a notice to member will be sent.

New Business

- Patti will do the annual report in January and asks that work efforts and accomplishments be sent to her for inclusion.

7:17pm Adjourn