

## Friends of Timbercrest Membership Meeting

Saturday, April 25, 2026

A lively meeting was held on Saturday after dinner. Several topics of interest and concern to FOT were discussed, including the following:

1. **Anniversaries:** Next year is the 10th year of FOT (wow!!) and the 60th year of residence camp at Timbercrest. After several possibilities were discussed, we decided:
  - a. Jennifer will ask what the council is going to do to celebrate?  
UPDATE: Jennifer spoke with Janet DePetrillo and Kara Runkel on Sunday as they were here for the Taste of Camp event. Janet said that while no definitive plans have been made just yet, there will be a celebration, likely during summer camp when staff are still on hand - probably in early August 2027.
  - b. We will have our own FOT 10 year celebration at the spring work weekend.  
FYI: Natasha Patchen has stepped up to be our liaison with Council. She has contacted them to request a date for our Spring Work Weekend, but has not yet heard back. (as of May 2, 2026)
  - c. We will follow Jo's suggestion that whatever we do, it should be fun!
2. **Jackman Area Upgrade:** Council stuff in the works is the building of a new 30 X 40 foot outdoor kitchen with fireplace for \$252,000 and two new yurts cost estimated at \$120,000 for each yurt same design as the two already at camp. The kitchen is expensive because of much masonry work. We have not seen any concept drawings.
  - a. We learned via Facebook that the Great Escape Committee (who hosts an adult weekend at Seven Hills annually) donated \$5,000 dollars toward a kitchen shelter at the Jackman Lodge / Yurts location. Before we learned that the project scope was far beyond a shelter similar to those in the units and also included two new yurts, Jennifer had suggested we match their donation, thinking that would bring us pretty close to the cost of a simple structure. Once we learned the half million dollar scope of the project, Jennifer and many FOT members had second thoughts.
  - b. Council has applied for a grant through the Sheldon Foundation for this project and the results of that request will be announced in May.
  - c. There were many questions about the Master Plan - whether this project was in the 2022 plan, why this was selected as the priority, etc.  
FYI: [Click here for 2022 master plan](#).  
ALSO: During a phone conversation between Jennifer and Kara before work weekend, Kara mentioned that Council is definitely using the Master Plan to guide decisions. She said that Jackman and the Yurts are the most requested by troops and service units.
3. **Summer Camp:** Council is saying it is tentatively a go with 15 campers in the first session and 21 in the second. They were originally saying they needed at least 25 per session and

that they would make a decision on April 15. The decision date has been extended until June 1.

4. **Sale of 364 acres** of the camp to the Western NY Land Conservancy to be part of their Wild Ways project (<https://www.wnylc.org/wnywildway>). Council says it could take up to 2 years as the Conservancy is looking for grants. Meeting participants had many questions and concerns including:
  - a. Where exactly is the tract of land that would be sold? (We have been told “southern third of property,” but have not seen a map. We have been told that more information will be shared as the project progresses.)
  - b. Will it be publicly accessible? Concerns about 4-wheelers and hunters coming onto GS property from the Wildway were expressed.
  - c. How will this affect future timber revenue?
5. **Miscellaneous Ideas:**
  - a. **How to Get More Girls Into Camp:** In the discussion of how to get girls to camp M&M suggested creating a video to show what camp is all about. M&M and Otter showed interest in creating something. At summer camp this summer we should get good video and still of the camp and the activities to use in promotion.
  - b. **Adult Camp:** EvaDawn suggested doing a high quality women’s weekend to help raise money. Other camps are doing this with success.
  - c. **One Could vs I’m Gonna:** More than one person expressed that we have these conversations over and over. Talk is cheap. Action? That’s where the commitment comes in.
6. **Express Yourself:** Ro suggested if you have strong feelings, thoughts, or questions about any of the concerns we talked about, you could let Cara Biddlecom, CEO ([cara.biddlecom@gswny.org](mailto:cara.biddlecom@gswny.org)) and/or Lynn Lubecki, Council Board President ([lynn.lubecki@sunyempire.edu](mailto:lynn.lubecki@sunyempire.edu)) know.
7. **Future of FOT:** Lastly, think about the future of FOT.
  - a. ‘Nnifer and Ro plan to retire from their roles after the 2027 Work Weekend. Yes, yes... they have said this before. But this time they are serious.
  - b. **Who will step up?** - warning it is a lot of work, though obviously you don’t have to do what had been done in the past. Everyone has been wonderful jumping in and completing work projects, but there is a lot of behind the scenes planning for the weekend that happens prior to showing up at camp.
  - c. **Bylaws?** - It was suggested there should be some sort of documentation - maybe not full-blown bylaws - but job descriptions, term limits, etc. Ro and Jennifer will meet and try to come up with a detailed list of what they do to prep for a weekend.