



**Friends of Parker River
National Wildlife Refuge, Inc.**

January 5, 2019

Ted Olsson, President

Invitation to the Annual Meeting of Friends of Parker River National Refuge, Inc.

Dear Members,

On behalf of its Board of Directors, I am pleased to invite you to the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, Inc. to be held on Saturday, January 26, 2019, from 10:00 AM to Noon at the Parker River NWR Visitor Center, 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, MA 01950**.

Following is our planned agenda for this meeting (in Visitor Center Classroom):

- Welcome: Ted Olsson
- Introduction of Special Guests: Ted Olsson
- Celebration of Boardwalk Plank Fundraiser for the Hellcat Trail: Ted Olsson
 - Hellcat Trail Project Review: Bill Peterson
 - Fundraiser Review: Ted Olsson, Bill Gette, and Weston Forsblad
 - Presentation of Donated Funds to Parker River NW Refuge: Board of Directors, Refuge Representatives
- Call to Order - Business Meeting
 - President's Report: Ted Olsson
 - Treasurer's Report: Lynette Leka
 - Refuge Manager's Report: Bill Peterson
 - Voting on Proposed Amendments to Article III of Bylaws: Kate Murray
 - Election of 2019 Board of Directors by Membership: Nominating Committee
 - Election of 2019 Officers by 2019 Board of Directors
- Plans for 2019: President of Friends of PRNWR, Inc.
 - Projects and Events
 - Next Scheduled Board of Directors Meetings
 - Tuesday, February 19, 2019, 7:00 PM
 - Tuesday, March 12, 2019, 7:00 PM

** In case of a continued US Government shutdown, this Annual Meeting will be held at the Mass Audubon's Joppa Flats Education Center across the street from the Parker River NWR Visitor Center - please see parkerriver.org for updates.



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Revisions to Friends By-Laws approved April 26, 2018,
for ratification at Friends Annual Meeting January 26, 2019

**ARTICLE III
Members**

There shall be one class of Members. All interested persons subscribing to the purposes of the corporation may become Members upon payment of annual dues in the amount established from time to time by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall have the right to create or eliminate types of membership from time to time as it shall see fit (eg, Individual, Family, Sustaining, Supporting, Corporate, etc.). Each individual named on the membership application shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the Members; however Classroom and Corporate memberships are entitled to one vote. Dues are payable January 1 of each calendar year. shall be payable annually in an amount to be determined by the Board of Directors. Any Member whose annual dues remain unpaid for 90 days after January 1 of any calendar year their membership date shall be deemed to have resigned upon the due date thereof. Any Member may resign by filing a written resignation with the Secretary. The Board of Directors, by affirmative vote of a majority of all members of the Board, may suspend or expel a Member for cause.



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FRIENDS OF PARKER RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

NOMINATING PROCESS

In accordance with the By-Laws (Article V, Section 7), the Board of Directors will elect a Nominating Committee consisting of three Board members who serve staggered terms so that the term of one member expires each year. The Committee will develop a slate of candidates for the nine Director positions to present to the full membership at the Friends' Annual Meeting. The Committee will select nominees whose experience and qualities will give the best service to the Friends and represents, insofar as feasible, a broad section of the membership across ethnicity, gender, age, and background.

The Friends invites candidate suggestions from the membership, from Refuge staff, and members of the public throughout the year, but preferably by November 1st in order to be considered for the subsequent year's Board. The Nominating Committee will complete its review process such that the slate of candidates can be approved by the Board at its regular meeting in December and approved by the membership at the annual meeting in January. At that same meeting, Board Officers - President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer - shall be elected by the newly constituted Board of Directors. If a Director position vacancy arises in between annual meetings, the Board of Directors may elect a person to fill the unexpired term. The Nominating Committee process will be used.

Process/Criteria

The Nominating Committee will assess the skills, experience and expertise of the current Board, identify gaps needing to be filled, and confirm whether current members are interested in continuing to serve. The Committee will contact prospective nominees to explain the Friends' purpose and the responsibilities expected of those serving as a Director. The Committee will gather information about the prospect's qualifications, experience and interests. The Committee will provide prospects with a copy of the Friends' By-Laws and other relevant material.

Candidates must be a member of the Friends in good standing at the time of their nomination and throughout their term if elected. They must submit biographical information as well as a letter expressing their interest in joining the Board and their intention to serve if elected.

The Nominating Committee will review and rank prospects based on their history of volunteer commitments to PRNWR and/or the Friends or similar organizations engaged in nature, the environment, education or other profession as appropriate; their skills and experience to advance the Board's strategic and program objectives; and the level of effort they can contribute to supporting the Friends and PRNWR. Reference checks will be conducted.

Following the current Board's approval of the slate, the Committee will prepare information to present to Members. After the election, the Committee will send each Director a letter confirming their election and the dates for their terms. An orientation will be provided for all new Directors.

Approved by the Friends' Board October 5, 2017; amended January 5, 2019



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Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, Inc., Board of Directors 2019 Candidates

Name	Background	History with Friends' Board of Directors
Doug Chickering	Retired machinist who has been birding for nearly 40 years; Doug birds on the refuge at least 250 times/year. Published author of Reflections on a Golden-winged Warbler and a contributor to birding journals and general circulation media.	Elected July 2018; serves on Technology, Planning and Nominating Committees; contributes to website blog.
Weston Forsblad	Professional career as a New Hampshire certified secondary ed. educator. Certified through the National Association for Interpretation as an interpretive guide. 2016/2017 Parker River NWR internship including work at Great Bay NWR & Wapack NWR. Completed Refuge Naturalist Program 2016. Refuge visitor since the 1980's.	Elected September 2018. Serves on Boardwalk Plank and Technology Committees; maintains Friends website. Maintains relationship with Newburyport HS Intern Program and supervises assigned intern maintaining Boardwalk Fundraiser for Hellcat Trail.
Bill Gette	Professional career with Mass Audubon involved with natural history, wildlife field trips, and biological surveys; retired as Sanctuary Director of Joppa Flats Education Center. Holds a Federal Bird Banding permit; developed and taught Birder's Certificate Program at Joppa Flats. Refuge visitor since 1960's.	Elected November 2017, re-elected for 2018; serves on Boardwalk Plank and Memorial Policy Committees. Acknowledges donations; presents programs on nature and birding; leads Behind the Scenes for Birders tours; liaison with Mass Audubon; organizes Pines Trail Maintenance crew.
MaryMargaret Halsey	Professional career in higher ed administration, alumni relations & development including cultivating/soliciting donors and grants. Volunteer with Joppa Flats Education Center, Bigelow (ME) Marine Lab and WomenExplore. Former member Princeton (NJ) Environmental Commission. Refuge visitor since 2002.	Elected September 2018. Serves on Planning Committee.
Katlyn Hojnacki	Professional career as a biological technician, including six years working at Parker River NWR. Currently employed by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Have conducted numerous biological surveys, along with various environmental outreach activities. Independent contractor for the refuge biological program.	Elected September 2018. Serves on Technology Committee. Conducts public outreach including managing Friends Facebook page, writing/editing the quarterly newsletter, contributing to the website, and creating outreach materials..
Lynette Leka	Professional career in laboratory management at Tufts University. Participated in Mass Audubon Birder's Certificate Program; completed PRNWR's Refuge Naturalist Program 2013. Treasurer and Subscription Manager for Bird Observer Journal. Active member of Parker River Clean Water Association, Eastern Mass Hawk Watch and Mass Audubon, fulfilling a range of administrative, scientific and educational roles.	Elected November 2017, re-elected January 2018; BoD Treasurer; maintains Friends' member database and financial records, processes transactions through PayPal, assists with member communications and donor acknowledgements. Active volunteer including plover warden, osprey monitor, purple martin colony monitor, and gatehouse attendant. Supports various biology staff projects. Organizing beach clean-up crews. Liaison with Bird Observer and Eastern Mass Hawk Watch.
Kate Murray	Professional career in administration and finance with Commonwealth public authorities managing water/wastewater and college campus facilities. Completed PRNWR's Refuge Naturalist Program 2016; volunteer since 2012; visitor since 1970's.	Elected January 2017, re-elected January 2018; BoD Secretary; serves on Boardwalk Plank Committee. Participated in National Friends' Mentoring Program. Organizes Guest Lecture Series; assists with board communications; volunteers at Visitor Center information desk and researches cultural history.
Ted Olsson	Professional career in executive management including business development, sales and marketing. Fund raiser for several non-profit organizations. Long-time birder, visitor over 40 years. Leadership role in creation of Friends' speaker series; rebuilding and launching the website; grants, advocacy, and fundraising efforts.	Elected January 2017, re-elected January 2018. President 2017- 2018. Serves as ad hoc member of all committees. Leadership role in creation of guest speaker series; rebuilding/launching website and FB page; organized and led Boardwalk Plank Fundraiser for Hellcat Trail; established relationship with Newburyport HS Intern Program.
David Williams	Professional career as a Middle School science teacher, brought classes to PRNWR using birds as the vehicle to teach science, conservation, and ecology. Has led more than 200 bird walks on the Refuge for the Brookline Bird Club, MA Joppa Flats, and other groups. Volunteer teacher/naturalist for MA Joppa Flats, working with adult and school groups. Surf fisherman, high school track coach.	Elected October 2018. Serves on Planning Committee.