

## **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - September 17, 2019**

### **Those Attending:**

Bill Gette, President; Lynette Leka, Treasurer; Directors Doug Chickering, Weston Forsblad, MaryMargaret Halsey and Dave Williams; Kate Murray, Secretary; Sharon Ware and and Maria Parisi, PRNWR

**Call to Order:** 6:05 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** The August 27th regular Board meeting minutes were approved as edited. Beginning with August, Kate will forward a PDF of all approved minutes to Weston for posting on the website.

### **Refuge Staff Update**

- Maria thanked the Friends for their help promoting last week's live-streamed NOAA dives of the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument.
- Maria said interviews are underway for a replacement for Bill Peterson and a decision might be forthcoming by the end of the calendar year.
- Sharon reported that the contract for the Hellcat Trail Replacement has been awarded. She circulated a draft of a flyer announcing the construction. In response to questions from the Board, Sharon explained which areas will be needed for access and staging for the new contractor. She agreed to check with biology staff on whether an area near Sub-HQ could be open during the project. Bill said that Friends will fully support the refuge in building on the exciting benefits to be achieved and emphasize that these benefits offset the closing of the trail during construction.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- Memberships are at 171 (compared with 168 last month).
- Lyn went over the report dated 9/14/19 and pointed out the new format that separates out the Financial Scholarship and Grant funds from the general and Hellcat Trail revenue and expenses.

### **President's Report**

- Bill provided his monthly update on gifts, memorial contributions, and premium memberships.

### **Technology Committee**

- Weston showed a two-minute video of the Enhanced Reality Sandbox. Members asked Weston to talk with the Amoskeag Nature Center about how the exhibit is used, and who uses it - routine visitors vs. school classes.
- Weston has posted the October events for the refuge and Friends, and photos from CoastSweep and the Friends maintenance crews.
- Kate asked Weston to decide where to post Friends meeting minutes on the website.

### **Maintenance Projects**

- HQ/VC Gardens: Lyn reported that the ground cloth placed on a small section over the summer has not killed the weeds, so hand pulling will be needed. Bill asked Lyn to forward him information on the hours that she and Lorene have worked on the garden.

- Lot #3 railing replacement: Bill said there is about 150 feet left to do, he is waiting for materials.

### **CoastSweep (Beach Clean-up, September 14th)**

- Bill estimated that about 100 people volunteered. He anticipates several new Friends members from the people who participated, and he thanked Doug, Lyn and Dave for their efforts.
- Bill asked if the Friends would take over leadership for these annual events starting next year. It would entail publicizing, arranging for dumpsters and bags, and compiling the detailed statistics on what's been collected to submit to CZM. He emphasized the potential to reach new members who participate in this clean-up. Bill will come back next meeting with more information.

### **Chamber of Commerce Event Planning (September 20th)**

- Bill and Maria have prepared brief presentations; MaryMargaret will attend.

### **Educational Programs**

- Dave proposed sending out emails to members in advance of each individual guest lecture. It was agreed to send out an e-mail one week before each program. Lyn will send out prepared text that should be provided to her in time for the mailing.

### **Planning for Annual Meeting**

Due to travel schedules, a January meeting is not workable in 2020. The Board voted to amend the By-Laws to say that the annual meeting will be held in January or February. Tentative new date is February 1, 2020; the potential speaker will be contacted and if necessary, another speaker will be invited.

### **Board Discussion:**

- Fund raising strategy: Dave will work with Weston on wording for the website. Unless a donor specifies otherwise, memorial gifts will be deposited in the scholarship fund.
- Chamber of Commerce: The refuge has decided to drop their membership in the Chamber; if they do, then Friends would be the only interface. Kate believes that the only interaction PRNWR has with the Chamber is to submit the monthly program/event listing, which the Friends could send them. Sharon noted that many refugees are not members of their local chambers. Bill announced that MaryMargaret has agreed to be the Friends designee for the Chamber.

### **Confirmation of the Next Board Meeting Dates:**

Dates are all Tuesdays from 6-7:30 p.m.: October 29, December 3 (no meeting in November), and January 21, 2020. Tentative date for annual meeting Saturday February 1, 2020, 10 a.m. - 12 noon.

**Adjournment:** 7:35 p.m.