

Meeting Minutes - Annual Meeting of the Members and Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors 2020

February 8, 2020 at Parker River NWR

The Annual Meeting was called to order by Bill Gette, President. A total of thirty-three Members eligible to vote were in attendance as well as several members of the public. The purposes of the annual meeting are to celebrate last year's successes, review plans for the coming year, and take business actions required by the Friends By-Laws. Copies of the materials sent to Members supporting today's votes to amend the by-laws and elect directors were available at the meeting. The meeting was conducted in accordance with the agenda and the power-point presentation which are attached to these minutes as a permanent record of the meeting.

President's Report:

Bill reviewed the items in the President's Report presentation slides, highlighting the ways that Friends supported Parker River NWR in 2019. He described the work done by Friends volunteer maintenance crews for the Pines Trail, at the Visitor Center (deck planking and garden), and on the boardwalks and railings at Lots #1 and #3. He reviewed the successful conclusion of the Boardwalk Plank Fundraiser for Hellcat Trail which raised \$40,000 for PRNWR. For 2020, Friends will focus on raising funds to support a refuge intern position, taking over responsibility for the annual CoastSweep beach cleanup (scheduled this year scheduled for September 12), and continuing to deploy volunteer maintenance crews as needed by PRNWR. Bill concluded his report by thanking the 2019 Friends Board of Directors, Parker River NWR staff, and Friends membership.

Treasurers Report:

Lynette Leka, Treasurer, reviewed the positive financial performance for 2019 generally and in particular for the Hellcat Trail Fundraiser.

Vote on Amendments to By-Laws:

Amendments to Articles I and IV were approved as published to Members in the notice for the Annual Meeting. The amendments clarify the Friends mailing address and allow for the annual meeting to be held in February as well as January. There were no dissenting votes.

Refuge Manager's Update:

Sharon Ware, Acting Manager of PRNWR, provided an overview of the Hellcat Replacement Project. She highlighted the ADA accessibility standards to be achieved as well as the 'green' features included in the new design, pointing out changes in the trail system - going from the existing two loop system to an overall one loop system with three trail spurs. The spurs are: one for the North Pool Overlook, the marsh spur into the North Pool, and the new dune loop observation platform (new location 600' further east of the original platform - better views!).

Election of Directors for 2020:

Thirty members submitted completed ballots. The Members' ballots were tallied and the results are attached to these minutes. Ellie Bailey, Doug Chickering, Ron DiCola, Weston Forsblad, Bill Gette, MaryMargaret Halsey, Katlyn Hojnacki, Lynette Leka, and David Williams each received a majority of votes and are elected Directors for 2020.

Election of Officers by 2020 Board of Directors:

The slate of Officers was approved as presented - Bill Gette, President; Doug Chickering, Vice President; Lynette Leka, Treasurer; and Ellie Bailey, Secretary. There were no dissenting votes.

Adjournment and Closing:

Bill Gette thanked all in attendance and encouraged Members to become more active in the Friends' initiatives.