



Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, Inc.

04/06/20

April Report in lieu of Board Meeting

Hello Friends Board Members and Volunteers,

As a follow-up to my e-mail of April 2, I've developed the following summary of Board actions since our last meeting. This summary incorporates input from Kaytee, Lynette, Ellie, Kate, and me. I hope that this summary will help keep you informed.

From Kaytee Hojnacki:

- a. Friends Logo: Kaytee has redone the Friends logo - what an improvement. Please use this logo version on future communications, letterheads, and cards.
- b. Friends Program: Kaytee rescheduled the Botswana program to May 7, although this program may have to be rescheduled again.
- c. Newsletter: Kaytee will be developing our next Friend newsletter soon. If you have ideas for articles, please communicate with her.
- d. Kaytee - can you suggest articles that we could write for you? Will you be writing about the Friends donation of \$6,000 from the Friends Internship Program?

From Lynette Leka

- a. Financial Report: In a separate e-mail, Lynette sent the March-ending Finance Report (dated 04/04/20). As she noted in her cover letter, we have "borrowed" money from on-going operations to make our \$6,000 Internship Program contribution.
- b. Performance to Our 2020 Budget: One quarter of the year into our fiscal plan (March-ending), we have raised 30% (\$3,949) of our projected \$13,000 income. At the moment, we are on track, but we may face challenges as we go forward given the disruption in everyone's lives.
- c. Balance on Hand: As of April 3, our TD Bank balance was \$16,596.32. While we had to "borrow" \$2,271 for our Intern Fund contribution to the refuge, we have adequate operating money on hand.
- d. Note the current membership number: 224. We need to continue to build our membership base. Please encourage your friends to join.

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From Kate Murray:

- a. Artist-of-the-Month: Kate Murray and Tamara Major have exchanged e-mails regarding the Artist of the Month program at refuge headquarters. Tamara has already communicated with all of the artists scheduled for this year. She let the current artist (Lainie Senechal whose work was installed March 1) know that the visitors center is closed. Tamara has also let the other artists know that the date for re-opening the center is uncertain. Tamara reviewed the guidelines Jean Adams used to communicate with artists and redrafted them, updating and editing for clarity. Tamara still wants to connect with Jean about remaining questions she has regarding how any art sale transactions are conducted and what guidance to provide artists who would like to have a reception when their exhibits open.

- b. Grant Support for the Refuge: Kate and Jim Major had a conference call with Nancy Pau and Lauren Healey - a 'remote' introduction of Jim to them, as he will be the Friends grant point person going forward. We discussed *The Once and Future Salt Marsh* project and agreed that at present, no additional applications would be sought. We are preparing an e-mail for New England Biolabs Foundation (the \$5k grantor) reporting progress and potential changes. The e-mail will provide images of the artwork developed using the NEBF support and report that, due to the pandemic, the schedule for installing the exhibits is uncertain (it had been scheduled for June 2020). The e-mail also introduces Jim as the new Friends liaison. In our conference call, Jim mentioned potential funding sources for internship support, and Nancy looks forward to working with him.

From Bill Gette:

- a. Dumpster for CoastSweep: Following up on a lead from Lynette, I had a very productive conversation with Carlos Amaral of Amaral Enterprises. He is a frequent visitor to the refuge and expressed a desire to help. He has a dumpster that he is willing to let us use for the September CoastSweep. He requests that we contact him at least two week prior to the event, so that he can deliver the dumpster. His telephone number is 978-745-6345.

- b. Governor's Academy: I have communicated via e-mail with Becky MacKnight about CoastSweep. She reached out to us about having students and faculty from The Governor's Academy help with the beach clean-up. The school's participation will depend on their sports and activities schedule. As soon as we finalize our plans for CoastSweep, we should contact Becky. Her telephone number is 303-818-8121. Her e-mail: rmacknight@govscacademy.org.

c. Gifts and Premium Memberships (YTD March 31):

Unrestricted Gifts:	\$1,836
Intern Fund (Restricted):	\$ 485
Premium Memberships:	\$ 850

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- d. Friends Work Groups: On March 18, three Friends volunteers raked and cut back vegetation from along the Pines Trail. We were about to start a project to replace the deck on the east end of refuge HQ (off the classroom), when all volunteer activities were put on hold. Bob Springfield ordered and received the new deck material, so we should be able to get started as soon as the volunteer restrictions are lifted.

If I missed something of significance, please let me know, and I will add that information in a follow-up report.

Bill Gette
President

