



Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2020
6:00 p.m.
Remote via Zoom

Present: Ellie Bailey, Secretary; Doug Chickering, Vice President; Weston Forsblad; Bill Gette, President; Kaytee Hojnacki; Lynette Leka, Treasurer; Dave Williams; Matthew Hillman, Refuge Manager; Jean Adams, Recreational Planner

Absent: Ron DiCola; MaryMargaret Halsey

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 by President Bill Gette.
2. Secretary's Report: The minutes of the Aug. 11 meeting were accepted as presented.
3. Refuge Staff Update: Matt Hillman reported as follows.
 - A. The Hellcat boardwalk is nearly completed and is ahead of schedule. A ribbon cutting is planned for Oct. 9. Because of covid, the guest list will be limited to twenty-five. Friends are welcome to be involved. In response to questions Matt added that the Friends can have a table in the parking lot though a formal decision has not been made. A "soft" opening will be held prior to the ribbon cutting, possibly announced through a Facebook post. Friends and Refuge volunteers will be invited first. There will be no press releases though coverage from local and state media is expected later.
 - B. Matt complimented the Friends on recent projects undertaken at the Visitor Center, i.e. the "professional" looking deck and the well-tended pollinator garden.
 - C. The removal of the dam at Great Bay is on track for the fall.
Jean Adams reported regarding interns that Matt P. will be staying on as a volunteer, Lauren Healey has finished her internship and Stacy will be moving on to a job in Florida. In response to questions she added that during Refuge Week, Oct. 11 - 17, the dyke at the North Pool is likely to be opened and other plans for this event are in the works. In response to a question she

explained that placement of memorial plaques on the Refuge is usually limited to staff and volunteers. Bill Gette suggested a memorial donation to the internship fund as an alternative. Finally Jean reported that Matt Poole is organizing a virtual volunteer appreciation event via Zoom with a presentation by Jane Kelly.

4. Board Reports

A. Treasurer: Lynette Leka reported that dues are coming in with contributions over the amount due. She is concerned about raising adequate funds to cover the 2020 payment already made for an internship and to cover internship payment in 2021. There are currently 225 members.

B. President: Bill Gette reported as follows.

*Beach Clean Up - The Refuge will sponsor a clean up on Sept. 27, Public Lands Day. Sandy Point will not be included and the number of volunteers will be limited. Doug Chickering made a motion to support this event. Lynette Leka seconded the motion. During discussion Dave Williams voiced his concerns. He stated that a nice day could bring a crowd and he was not comfortable with that. Matt Hillman replied that pre-registration will be required and will limit participation. The motion passed with Dave's abstention.

C. Memorial Committee Report: Bill Gette referenced the 9/13/20 Finance Report (sent out ahead of the meeting). The report shows that of the \$500 budgeted for memorials, \$315 has been received.

D. Technology Report: Weston Forsblad reported that he has created a Youtube video of Bill Gette's Shorebird Workshop program. This is a free service. The video can be accessed via a link from the Friends' website. Lynette offered to look into adding links to other already recorded lectures.

5. Purple Martin Project: Doug Chickering is heading up this effort. Three action items emerged from discussion. 1. Bill will send the draft brochure back to Doug.

2. Doug will acknowledge gifts as they are received. 3. Doug will incorporate feedback received on his website article and send the final copy to Weston. 4. Weston will then post the article on the website.

6. Program Calendar: Bill Gette will present a workshop on ducks on Nov. 10. As Kaytee was not present, her ideas may be discussed later.

7. Refuge Birding Event: Bill Gette explained that Mass. Audubon plans a Super Bowl of Birding on Jan. 30. The Friends will hold a Winter Birding Contest later, possibly the week of Feb. 14 - 20, 2021. At the end of the week participants will turn in their results for the day on which they saw the greatest number of species. The Board decided on a title for the event: Parker River Winter Birding Challenge and agreed that participants will be responsible for the

Refuge entrance fee. Funds raised will go to the internship fund. Dave Williams agreed to work with Bill on rules for the challenge and will email possible work dates to Bill.

8. Fund Raising: To be discussed at a later meeting when those involved can be present.

9. Other New Business:

Annual Meeting - The Board set Sat., Jan 16, 2021 from 10 - 12 a.m. as the tentative date for this virtual event. In addition to an update from Refuge Manager, Matt Hillman, there will be a speaker. Lynette offered to look for a presenter who can speak on Snowy Owls. Ballots for election of Board members will be mailed ahead of the meeting and results will be announced at the meeting.

New Board Members/Associate Members - Bill encouraged the Board to actively recruit new people.

10. Confirmation of Next Board Meeting Date: The Board will meet on
Tuesday, Oct. 6
Tuesday, Nov. 17
Tuesday, Dec. 15

11. Review of Action Items:

Lynette will look into previously recorded lectures.

Bill will send Doug the draft Purple Martin brochure.

Doug will acknowledge gifts for the Purple Martin Project.

Doug will do final edits on the Purple Martin Project article and submit it to Weston.

Weston will post the Purple Martin article on the website.

Dave will email dates to Bill re: work on Birding Challenge.

Lynette will look for a speaker on Snowy Owls.

Board members will recruit new members.

Ellie will send Doug the Board contact list.

12. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Bailey

Secretary