



Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2020
6:00 p.m.
Remote via Zoom

Present: Ellie Bailey, Secretary; Doug Chickering, Vice President; Weston Forsblad; Bill Gette, President; MaryMargaret Halsey; Kaytee Hojnacki; Ted Olsson; Kate Murray; Jean Adams, Recreational Planner

Absent: Matt Hillman, Sharon Weare

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 by President Bill Gette.

2. Secretary's Report. The minutes of the Oct. 6 meeting were accepted as presented.

3. Fund Raising Discussion

Bill Gette explained that the focus for fundraising is the Internship Program and that is what is presented in the new membership brochure. Other projects, such as the Purple Martin project will have stand alone materials. He will give the Board copies of the new brochure a.s.a.p.

Ron DiCola reported that his company makes donations and accepts applications online on a quarterly basis. He plans to apply for a grant for the Internship Program and is optimistic about the Friends' chances.

Bill added that the sign-up form for the Winter Birding Challenge contains a donation box, another possible source of funds for the Internship Program.

MaryMargaret spoke about the *Wild and Scenic Film Festival* she recently attended online. There are 16 short films available for 5 days after registration. The Board

agreed that she should investigate this possible fundraiser further but first check with Matt Poole to be sure there is no conflict with his conservation film series.

Bill and Lynette will do a year-end appeal to members for the Internship Program.

4. Annual Meeting

Bill announced that Ted Olsson will be nominated for the seat on the Board now held by Kaytee who is stepping down. He encouraged members to recruit associate board members.

Dave Williams was chosen to fill the empty seat on the Nominating Committee and the committee agreed to meet and compile a slate before the Dec. Board Meeting.

Bill will present a PowerPoint on our 2020 projects. We will preview it at the Dec. meeting.

5. The following meeting dates were confirmed.

Board Meeting - Dec. 15

Board Meeting - Jan. 12 (Annual Meeting preparation)

Annual Meeting - Jan. 16

6. Staff Update: Jean Adams reported for the staff as follows.

She thanked Bill for his feedback on new signs for the Hellcat boardwalk. The staff is finalizing signage and more bike racks are coming. Bill offered the Work Group's help with installation.

Two memorials have been created for installation on the refuge. The first, in memory of Catherine Carnavale, is a bench already on Ipswich Bluffs. The second, in memory of Tom Rurak, is a plaque to be placed at the gate house.

The interns who staffed the gate house have left, leaving noone for this duty. As a result the Gate House is not staffed and there has been an increase in visitor misbehavior. A discussion of behaviors Friends have witnessed ensued along with possible remedies. Behaviors included cutting winterberry branches, and riding bikes on the dike. Suggested remedies (aside from staffing the gate house and more law enforcement, both unlikely according to Jean) included educational signage, letter writing to public officials, and acting as monitors. Jean agreed to communicate the Board's concern, support, and willingness to help to the staff.

7. Board Reports

A. Treasurer's Report. Lynette Leyka reported that while the Internship Fund needs more funds, as expenses have been low, we could cover it if need be. She announced that the Brookline Bird Club contributed \$200 to the Purple Martin Project. Membership renewals are good and many come with donations.

B. President's Report.

Work Group. Bill stated that various maintenance projects are keeping this group very busy. The latest is the building of a kiosk at the Visitor Center.

Winter Birding Challenge. The details for this event have been posted on the website and signs are ready for posting at the gate house and two other locations. Dave will contact Mass. Bird, the BBC, the MA Assoc. of Bird Clubs, and Tom Wetmore (website) regarding the Challenge after the New Year. MaryMargaret has contacted ECOC.

Big Sweep. This event will be held on Sat. Nov. 21 to clear the Hellcat Boardwalk of leaves. Lynette, MaryMargaret, Bill and Doug will be on hand with binoculars and birding tips. Members have been notified.

C. Memorial Committee. Bill referred members to the Treasurer's report sent out prior to the meeting and repeated that the focus is the Internship Fund.

D. Technology Committee. Bill thanked Weston for his help with virtual events.

8. Purple Martin Project. Doug reported that adequate funds have come in and he is ready to order supplies/equipment. The location is still undetermined because of the survey issue. Kaytee will help with this by talking to Nancy and Bob. Doug requested a place to store the equipment, etc. at the Refuge and Bill offered to talk with Matt Hillman about this. Doug will form a team to work on the project in the spring and Sue McGrath will do a training for them.

9. Program Calendar. Suggestions for programs included a 30 min. talk on Birds at the Refuge (Bill) for the Annual Meeting, an EBird workshop (Dave will ask Lisa Hutchings if she can do this), and iNaturalist workshop, and a Birds of Florida program. After the Annual Meeting we will discuss programs further.

10. Peer to Peer Workshop. MaryMargaret attended this event and has sent members a summary as well as workshop materials. We will review her summary at the Dec. meeting.

11. Other New Business

Bill stated that the relocation of the Stage Island Pool observation platform would please members and other birders very much.

Kate Murray will send the proposed By-Law change to members along with information on the Annual Meeting process.

Bill reminded members to let Ellie know when they have completed an action item. She will send the list out a.s.a.p.

12. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.