



Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Board of Directors Meeting Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2021 6:30 p.m. Remote via Zoom

Present: Ellie Bailey, secretary; Bill Gette, president; Ted Olsson, vice president; Weston Forsblad; MaryMargaret Halsey; Lynette Leka, treasurer; Matt Poole, visitor services; Dave Williams; associate members Peg Gould.

Absent: Doug Chickering, vice president;

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Bill Gette.
2. Secretary's Report: The minutes of the Sept. 15 Board meeting were accepted. Action items from the Sept. 15 meeting were addressed as follows:

*Bill Gette reported that headquarters will order planks and that he will write an article on education programs for the website. Also he contacted River Valley Charter School regarding participating in the Beach Clean-up but they were not able to join us this fall.

*MaryMargaret reported that she will contact the Chamber of Commerce regarding a corporate membership in the Friends now that there is a new president.

Artist of the Month: Ellie reported that she has contacted all of the artists who were scheduled to show in 2020 to see if they are still interested. Three have replied and all have expressed interest.

Other art forms: There was a discussion of how to include poetry, photos, etc. from members and others on the website. The Board agreed that Ted will create guidelines and Weston will handle submissions. Ellie will send Artist of the Month guidelines to Ted.

3. Refuge Staff Update: Matt Poole reported as follows.

*From Matt Hillman: Bob Springfield will be away from 10/10 to 10/17. Matt H. has hired a new maintenance lead and is interviewing for other team members. He asked whether or not the engraver can send planks when finished and Bill replied that he cannot. Mowing has always been done in the marsh at Bill Forward and is for maintenance access only.

*For Jean Adams: Friends are invited to volunteer and/or staff a table at the Great Bay Walk About on Oct. 16. If interested contact Jean via email.

*Luke and Kia are developing an accessibility guide and would like Friends feedback. Matt will forward a copy to Bill to share with the Board.

*National Wildlife Refuge Week is Oct. 10 - 16. As usual the North Pool dike will be open.

*MaryMargaret conveyed questions from the public regarding the open areas that were traditionally mowed. No mowing has occurred this year and she would like to know why. Matt Poole will convey this concern to Nancy Pau.

4. Board Reports

A. Treasurer: Lynette Leka sent her report ahead and commented that a check for \$1,000 has been received from Genzyme. A discussion of procedural issues followed and the Board decided to address the need for an internal audit. To this end Bill, Ted and Lynette will meet for a review of Friends finances before the Annual Meeting. Also Lynette will check to be sure Bill's name is on our bank accounts.

B. President: Bill Gette reported on current work group projects. The boardwalk at the rear of the Visitor Center was replaced and the group helped Bob Springfield install the new signs at the Hellcat Trail. The new vests work very well.

The Hellcat markers project is underway with Matt Hillman's ok. 3 x 5" metal signs will be attached to the bumpers that run along the boardwalk. They will be lettered M for marsh and D for dune with numbers following. Bill and MaryMargaret will walk the trails to determine how many signs are needed and then Bill will get an estimate on the cost.

C. Technology Report: Weston reported that he has updated the homepage with a wildflower posting and will have space for something new when the job posting is removed. Peg Gould will send him an article. Ted will provide links to Friends website articles on the Facebook page.

5. Board Membership:

It was moved and voted unanimously to accept Peg Gould as a board member filling Ron DiCola's unexpired term.

MaryMargaret brought up a potential Board member and will send his contact information to Bill so that he can be invited to our next meeting.

6. New Plank Project: Ted reported that he has incorporated comments received via email into the design of the flyer and order form and will send the revised copies for Board review. As soon as revisions are approved, he feels we are ready to launch this project. The launch will include materials on the website, press releases, posters, and communication with members. There will be a mock-up showing how engravings will look. After some discussion the Board agreed to keep the spacing of engravings uniform, following the plan Ted submitted.

7. Parker River Winter Birding Challenge: Dave Williams reported that he has reviewed the rules. He suggested that there be two categories, “beginners” and “advanced.” Participants would self-select. We could also consider other types of prizes such as donations to a charity, or some symbolic award.

8. Educational Programs: Bill reported as follows: The StoryWalk will go up this week. Members doing Pop-up Birding were reminded to report their dates. There is ongoing collaboration with Refuge programs.

9. National Wildlife Refuge Week Program: Board members volunteered to be at a Friends’ table for the Hellcat Dike opening, Oct. 10 - 16. Sunday - Dave; Mon. - Ted; Tues. - Bill; Wed - MaryMargaret; Thursday - ?; Friday - Peg.

10. Annual Meeting. Bill stated that the meeting will be remote and follow the same format as last year.

11. Next Meeting Dates

*Wed. Nov. 10 @ 6:30

*Wed. Dec. 15 @6:30

13: Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Action Items:

*Ellie will send minutes to Weston and Guidelines to Ted.

*Matt will send diversity guide to Bill and Bill will forward to Board. Board will comment and return to Matt P.

*Matt P. will convey concerns to Nancy re: mowing or not mowing fields.

*Lynette will check names/signatures on bank accounts.

*Ted, Bill and Lynette will meet for an internal audit.

*Bill and MaryMargaret will walk the Hellcat trails and figure out how many signs are needed.

*MaryMargaret will send prospective Board member's contact information to Bill.

*Bill will get an estimate for the cost of making the signs, stencil on metal.

*Ted will link Facebook page to Friends webpage articles.

*Ted will send a revised flyer and order form for Board review.