



## Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

### Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2022 6:30 p.m. Remote via Zoom

Present: Ellie Bailey, secretary, Doug Chickering, vice president, Bill Gette, president, Lynette Leka, treasurer, Ted Olsson, vice president, Weston Forsblad, Peg Gould, MaryMargaret Halsey, Dave Williams, Cheryl Smith, associate member, Matt Hillman, refuge manager, Matt Poole, visitor services, Dan Graovac.

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 by President Bill Gette.
2. Secretary's Report. The minutes of the Dec. 15 meeting were accepted. Action items from the Dec. 15 meeting have been completed or are in process. Doug was reminded to send Bill his pop-up program data.
3. Refuge Staff Update. (The update was covered during a discussion of Matt Hillman's annual meeting presentation.) Matt highlighted the following: staff & hiring; maintenance projects; safety improvements; Friends and volunteers' contributions; biological programs; accessibility; education programs & tours; transportation improvements/initiatives; partnerships; law enforcement; and urban initiatives.
4. Board Reports
  - A. Treasurer. Lynette Leka sent her report ahead of the meeting. She pointed out that recently the Friends have received some large donations and that dues for the year exceeded expectations. Our financial position is very favorable for additional refuge support. After a brief discussion it was moved and voted unanimously to authorize Lynette to place an ad or ads for the plank project in *Bird Observer* and to spend up to \$200.00. Ted Olsson agreed to design the ad.
  - B. President. Bill Gette recognized MaryMargaret for her service on the Board and thanked her for all she has contributed.

C. Technology Committee. There was no report.

5. Annual Meeting Planning. Bill Gette reviewed the agenda, allowing for comments, questions, etc. As a result: Bill will add a photo of a board member wearing our new orange vests. Ted will send Bill the link to the Friend's Facebook page. Peg Gould will lend tech support during the meeting.

It was noted that debris on the boardwalk on the Pines Trail sometimes covers the memorial plank lettering. Bill will purchase a broom to keep in a convenient place near the boardwalk. Deep sand, blown in by winter storms, is covering a portion of the Lot 1 boardwalk.

As votes for the Board are in with all candidates being elected, the Board re-elected all officers: Ellie Bailey, secretary, Doug Chickering, vice president, Bill Gette, president, Lynette Leka, treasurer, Ted Olsson, vice president.

6. Pines Trail Plank Project. Ted reported that boardwalk planks have been installed. Installation will probably resume in March. So far we have received \$5,500 with a net of \$4,480. To stimulate more orders Ted, Dan & Weston will pursue an Instagram account that Dan will manage.

7. Parker River Winter Birding Challenge. Lynette reported that so far there have been no registrations. She will resend an email notifying members of this event.

8. Internship Program. Matt Hillman explained that this summer's intern will work on both conservation biology (peppered removal) and outreach. We have already donated the \$6,000 cost. At a staff meeting in February, refuge staff will discuss internship needs. Matt will report back.

9. Educational Program Calendar

11. Major Projects. A brief discussion, to be continued, yielded a few preliminary ideas: mowing at Stage Island and Bill Forward observation areas; law enforcement needs.

12. Confirmation of Next Meeting Dates:

Sat. Jan. 22 @ 10:00

Wed. Feb. 16 @ 6:30

Wed. Mar. 16 @ 6:30

13. Review of Action Items

\*Doug will send Bill a report on the pop-up programs

\*Lynette will put ad(s) in *Bird Observer* for the plank project.

\*Ted will design an ad for *Bird Observer*.

- \*Bill will add a “vest photo” to his annual meeting Powerpoint.
- \*Bill will buy a broom and put it near the Pines boardwalk.
- \*Ted, Dan and Weston will pursue an Instagram account.
- \*Ted will send Bill the link to the Friends Facebook page.
- \*Matt H. will report back on any additional internship needs for 2022.

13. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Eleanor Bailey