



Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Board of Directors Meeting Wednesday, March 16, 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, Peg Gould, Dave Williams, Matt Hillman, refuge manager, Matt Poole, visitor services, Cheryl Smith, associate member

Absent: Dave Williams

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 6:40 by President Bill Gette.
2. Secretary's Report. The minutes of the Feb. 16 meeting were accepted. Action items from the Feb. 16 meeting have been completed or are in process. Dave Williams will report on sea life presenters at the next meeting.
3. Refuge Staff Update.
Matt Poole reported as follows:
 - *The beach will close on April 1 for the plover nesting season. Plovers have already been sighted.
 - *The new Parker River website, part of a national refuge system update, is up and running.
 - *The conservation film festival will be held March 25 - March 27 via Zoom.
 - *The visitor center will open soon.
 - *April programs are being scheduled.
 - *Nancy Pau is away for a month at another refuge.
 - *A new administrative assistant will begin on May 9.
 - *Hawk migration has begun.
 - *Jean Adams and Janet Hickey have put the Purple Martin nesting boxes up on the refuge.

Matt Hillman added:

*Parker River is authorized to reopen the visitor center and will do so as soon as possible, given scheduling needs. The 50 person maximum is still in effect for outdoor programs.

*Great Bay's 30th Anniversary is this year. Matt asked the Board to consider supporting this event. After some discussion, the Board agreed that refuges beyond Parker River, but under Parker river administration, could not currently be supported by the Friends under the current by-law. A revision would be needed. The possibility of expanding our by-law to include Great Bay, Thatcher's Island and Wapack will be discussed at our next meeting.

Board Reports

A. Treasurer. Lynette Leka sent her report ahead of the meeting. In her comments she highlighted our good financial position, the net of \$218 from the Winter Birding Challenge, the \$3,000 already in the internship fund, and the steady receipt of plank orders (two to three/week) and membership renewals. Several suggestions were made and accepted

- *We will put out plank forms (Ted), membership brochures and business cards (Bill) at the Beach Clean Up.

- *Dan will create a QR code for donations that can be linked to the Friends' website.

B. President. Bill Gette reported

- *that the work crew has been working on a new shed.

- *that feedback on the CIDP event indicated that the Board is not interested.

- *that he is working with the Mosquito Control District on mowing phragmites at Bill Forward Blind and Stage Island Pool. Mowing will be in August and cost less than \$5,000.

Bill also led a discussion of the sand problem on the Lot One boardwalk. The following suggestions were accepted.

- *Dan will develop a proposal for an "adopt a boardwalk" program.

- *Bill will contact Newburyport High School and Governor's Academy re: community service.

- *Lynette will include sand clearance in the next Beach Clean Up reminder sent to members being sure to request that members bring plastic shovels and brooms.

- *We will post on social media, Dan on Instagram, Ted on Facebook.

C. Technology Committee. Weston reported that he updates the homepage regularly as new material comes in. He will post the names of the winners of the Winter Birding Challenge. The Technology Committee decided meet monthly at 6:30, just before the Friends' Board meeting.

5. Friends Volunteer Projects

- *The beach clean up is all set.

- *There will be a Pines Trail clean up in May or whenever needed.

- *Doug and Dan will set up the Purple Martin gourds at the Visitor Center.

6. Plank Project

- *75 orders have been received

- *The next set of inscriptions will be done as soon as Ted can arrange for it.

- * Ted's revised design will be emailed to the Board.

7. Program Calendar

*March 24 lecture. Ted will introduce the speaker.

*June 5 field trip. Doug and Peg will help.

*Other programs:

*Bill will schedule a “May Birds on the Refuge” and send information to Lynette, Matt P. and the Tech. Committee.

*Bill will find a speaker for an iNaturalist program and will also look into a speaker from Lowell’s Boat Shop.

*Ted will develop a proposal for a program of refuge-inspired poetry.

8. Next Meeting Dates: April 13 @ 7:00; May 11 @ 7:00. (Tech. Committee meets on Zoom at 6:30)

9. Action Items

*Dave will find a speaker on sea life.

*Bill will add discussing expanding our mission to include Wapack, Thatchers, and Great Bay to the agenda for the April meeting.

*At the Beach Clean Up, Ted will put out plank forms, and Bill will put out membership brochures and business cards.

*Dan will create a QR code for donations that can be linked to the Friends’ website.

*Dan will develop a proposal for an “adopt a boardwalk” program.

*Bill will contact Newburyport High School and Governor’s Academy re: community service/sand removal.

*Lynette will include sand clearance in the next Beach Clean Up reminder sent to members being sure to request that members bring plastic shovels and brooms.

*Dan & Ted will post about sand clean up on social media, Dan on Instagram, Ted on Facebook.

*Weston will post the names of the winners of the Winter Birding Challenge on the website.

*Doug and Dan will set up the Purple Martin gourds at the Visitor Center.

* Ted will email his revised plank design to the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Bailey

