



Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Board of Directors Meeting Wed., April 26, 2023 7:00 p.m. Remote via Zoom

Present: Ellie Bailey, secretary; Doug Chickering; Bill Gette; Peg Gould, vice president; Kevin Komiega, Lynette Leka, treasurer; Ted Olsson, vice president; Matt Hillman, refuge manager; Scott Loder, ranger; Ella Weber, visitor services manager.

Absent: Dan Graovac, president; Dave Williams.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 by Vice President, Ted Olsson. Ted introduced Scott Loder, a new permanent ranger at Parker River. Scott will work Wed. through Sun.

2. Secretary's Report: The minutes of the Feb. 22 meeting were accepted and action items reviewed. All have been completed or are in progress. Kevin Komiega will help a volunteer group develop a poster on appropriate interactions with gulls.

3. Refuge Staff Update:

Ella Weber reported as follows.

*She has advertised for a new Hispanic Access Intern as Reyna Burke has left.

*Volunteers Stacy and Josh at Great Bay are leaving.

*Ella will be creating a regular volunteer newsletter. Friends are invited to contribute.

*Friends were encouraged to volunteer for Let's Go Outside.

*The staff will be trained for a new archery program.

*The May/June calendar goes out Monday, May 1 with Friends' programs included.

Matt Hillman reported as follows.

*The bird strike hazard mitigation materials will be installed May 8 - 11. Volunteers are needed for Monday afternoon and at other times.

*On May 12 a group of Fulbright scholars will visit the Refuge. Friends are invited to help with their program and should let Matt know if interested.

*The Friends' agreement was discussed briefly. Ted agreed to add information on the use of refuge facilities and equipment by Friends to the agreement.

4. Board Reports

A. Treasurer: Lynette sent her report prior to the meeting and stated that our financial position continues to be good with healthy bank balances and donations coming in for mowing. She has almost completed the process of moving our accounts to the Institution for Savings and is working on applying for a Mass. state sales tax exemption. Bill will check the files for any information on an extant tax number. There are 282 members.

Garden: Lynette also added that she and volunteer, Lorene Melvin are planning to clean up the garden at the Visitor Center and add more native pollinator plants when the weather warms up and all wintering-over by insect larvae has ceased.

B. Technology: Kevin reminded the Board that anyone needing help with our transition to Google can call on him. We are moving towards utilizing the Google Workspace.

C. President:

Yankee Homecoming Programs: Ella will contact Ghlee Woodworth and work with her on joint sponsorship.

Wildlife Camera: Kevin and Dan will post videos as soon as the cameras are up and running.

Osprey Cam: The Board agreed that because ospreys are being followed by other cameras in our area and involve considerable work, this was not a project to adopt at this time.

D. Maintenance Committee: Bill Gette reported as follows.

Stage Island Platform: By Aug. 31, the platform will be moved 150 yards west for 180 degree viewing. The work crew will build a new ramp and guard rails. There are no expenses.

Parking Lot 7: The boardwalk will not be replaced.

Benches for Hellcat boardwalk: It was moved and voted to spend not more than \$5,500 for seven benches. The Board agreed to place a plaque honoring the Friends contribution on each bench.

5. Programming Initiatives:

Lighthouse Signage: Ted is compiling a report for the Friends of Parker River and the Friends of the Plum Island Lighthouse. He will include information on the proposed location, size, design, etc. of interpretive signage for the keeper's house, now used by Refuge staff. Signage could be installed by the Work Crew by the end of this summer. Ted encouraged the Board to tour the lighthouse this season.

Walk for the Wild: Ted, Bill and Peg will work on this event (Oct. 7 - 14) and possibly expand it to three days, Sat./Sun./Sat.

Dave Williams recommended another Evening with Swallows and the Board agreed.

Ted proposed that a group work on salt water fly fishing.

6. Educational Programming: Upcoming programs include as follows.
 - April 29: Introduction to Birdwatching Field Trip, 9 - 11 with Bill Gette (rain date 5/6)
 - May 3: Wood Warblers via Zoom, 7 - 8:15 with Bill Gette
 - Oct 26: Sparrows via Zoom, 7 - 8:15 with Bill Gette
7. Next Meeting: May 31 @ 7:00.
8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Action Items

- *Kevin will help a volunteers group with a poster on gulls.
- *Friends able to help with the bird strike mitigation project should contact Matt.
- *Ted will add information on the use of Refuge facilities and equipment to the Friends agreement.
- *Bill will check on an extant tax number.
- *Ella will contact Ghlee Woodworth about Yankee Homecoming programs.
- *Ted, Bill and Peg will work on Walk for the Wild.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Bailey
Secretary