



Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Board of Directors Meeting Wed., July 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, president; Matt Hillman, refuge manager; Ella Weber, visitor services manager; Andy Griffith.

Absent: Dave Williams

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:07 by President Ted Olsson. Ted welcomed Friends' member, Andy Griffith.

2. Secretary's Report: The minutes of the May meeting were accepted and action items reviewed. All items have been completed or are in progress.

3. Refuge Staff Update: Ella Weber reported as follows.

*A new intern, Madeleine, has arrived to do shorebird research.

*Matt Hillman is interviewing for two staff positions.

*The salt marsh sparrow population at the Refuge is staying the same.

*Ella is coordinating a program on Aug. 14 at the Lawrence Boathouse from 1 - 4. She needs volunteers to help with stations. Ted volunteered.

*National Public Lands Day is Sept. 23. Ella is looking for volunteers to lead an activity for the public on Sept. 30.

*Articles for the volunteer newsletter and Refuge website should go to Ella.

Ella's request for \$25.00 for snacks for the Refuge children's program in August was approved.

In response to a question, Matt Hillman explained that the draw-down at Stage Island and Bill Forward will happen over the next month.

The Board and Matt set Sept. 30 as the date for the Beach Clean-up. Bill Gette will schedule Board volunteers, as usual. A brief discussion about picking up fishing gear led to the following clarification: The Refuge staff picks up lobster traps. The Friends picks up rope, buoys, etc. but do not pick up monofilament. Volunteers should be informed of same.

4. Board Reports

A. Treasurer: Lynette Leka sent her report ahead of the meeting. Ted Olsson reported for Lynette that the Friends' financial position continues to be strong. Lynette has some concerns about fundraising in 2023, as receipts are low. Kevin will develop a proposal to address this need and present it at our next meeting. He will highlight projects the Friends have funded including the new Stage Island platform. A brief discussion revealed that the platform will be ADA compliant and that the platform at Bill Forward does meet ADA accessibility standards, concerns voiced by Andy Griffith.

B. President:

*Ted asked the Board to consider ways to involve members of the Friends in more activities and how to improve recruitment of board members. Kevin and Ted will explore the use of Linked-In.

*Ted met with Laura Ludwig of the Center for Coastal Studies, a group that is working on the removal of lost/discarded fishing and lobster equipment from beaches. Specifically, the group is gathering data on the number of lobster traps and amount of shark tubing that washes up on Plum Island's beaches. Matt Hillman and Ted will follow up with her.

C. Technology: Kevin reported as follows:

* The Tech. Committee (Kevin, Lynette & Ted) will be meeting to work on the Network Solutions/Google Workspace problem.

* He has received and will post plover and Artist of the Month updates.

5. Hellcat Benches: Bill Gette reviewed the design and wording as presented at the May meeting. The cost for seven plaques will be \$1500. It was moved and voted to proceed with this project. Bill will order and install the plaques.

6. Email Addresses: The Board will continue to use addresses on the existing list.

7. Educational Programs

*Yankee Homecoming Lectures (Ghlee Woodworth/Ella). Ted will look into need to publicize these Visitor Center talks.

*Tree Swallows, Tuesday, Aug. 8 with Nancy Pau

*Swallows & Egrets, Thurs. Aug. 24 @ 5:00 with Bill Gette and Doug Chickering. (Bill will send Ella information on this program.)

*Drop-In Birding Program, Wed., Oct. 11 with Bill Gette (National Wildlife Week program/Walk for the Wild)

*An Ode to the Lifesaving Service, t.b.d. with Ted Olsson

*A Deep Presence: 13,000 Years of Native American History, t.b.d. with Robert G. Goodby. Ted explained that Professor Goodby's fee and travel expenses would be between \$350 - \$450. It was moved and voted to pursue this program. Ted will contact Prof. Goodby.

8. Walk for the Wild: This event will be held on Oct. 7. There will be both a walk and a bike component. Ella and Ted are exploring a night biking possibility. Bill, Ted, Ella and Peg will meet on Wed., Aug. 29 at 7 via Zoom for further discussion.

9. Next Meeting

Aug. 23 @ 7:00

Sept. 20 @ 7:00

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Action Items

*Bill will coordinate Board volunteers for the Beach Clean-up.

*Kevin will develop a fundraising proposal for our Aug. 23 meeting.

*Kevin and Ted will explore the use of Linked-In.

*Bill will order and install the plaques on Hellcat benches.

*Bill will send Ella information on his swallows and egrets program.

*Tech. committee will meet Aug. 9 @ 7 via Zoom.

*Ted will check on publicity for Yankee Homecoming talks scheduled at the Visitor Center.

*Ted will set up the Robert Goodby talk.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Bailey
Secretary