



Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023
7:00 p.m.
Remote via Zoom

Present: Ellie Bailey, secretary; Bill Gette; Doug Chickering; Kevin Komeiga; Peg Gould, vice president; Lynette Leka, treasurer; Ted Olsson, president; refuge staff, Sharon Ware & Ella Weber

Absent: Dave Williams

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:04 by President Ted Olsson.
2. Secretary's Report: The minutes of the July 26 meeting were accepted. Action items from July 26 not completed were reviewed as follows.
 - *Ella will send Kevin her file on the shorebird poster.
 - *Board members will let Ted know whether or not they want to continue on the Board and in their president offices.
 - *Bill will circulate a sign-up sheet for the Sept. 30 beach clean-up on Sept. 15. He will also contact Joppa Flats regarding their possible involvement.
 - *Lynette will notify members of the beach clean-up.
 - *Kevin will post notices about the clean-up on our website and on social media.
 - *Trail maintenance will be included in the beach clean-up with Matt's o.k.
 - *There will be some clean-up on the marsh but only with staff or board accompanying volunteers.
 - *Kevin and Dan found that using Linked-In to recruit members would not be worth our effort.
 - *Doug will send Kevin and Ella a link to Tom Wetmore's website.
 - *The design for the plaques to go on the Hellcat benches the Friends have

donated was reviewed and one editorial change suggested.

3. Refuge Staff Update

Ella Weber reported as follows.

*She thanked Bill and the maintenance group for their help with the new Stage Island viewing platform; Bill and Doug for their Swallows and Egrets program; Ted for his help with the Lawrence program; Dave and Ellie for their help with boat tours; Lynette for picking up snacks for the childrens' program and the Board for donating the snacks.

*Phragmites mowing is planned for Tues./Wed. (Aug. 29/30), if nesting birds have left the areas.

*Beach parking lots 3 - 6 should open this week and 2 and 7 are already open.

*Marissa, a bio intern, starts this coming week as intern Amy leaves for her military obligation.

*More bird collision mitigation stickers will be installed the week of Sept. 25. Board members who want to help can let Ella know.

*On Sept. 24 at 3:00 there will be a concert at Hellcat.

*Waterfowl hunts are scheduled for Oct. 14 and Oct. 21.

*There will be a fishing derby on Sept. 25 at Lot 1.

*The Great Bay open house will be Oct. 21. The Friends are welcome to have an information table.

*On Oct. 20 or 27 there will be an after hours bike ride with the Newburyport Livable Streets group. The Friends agreed to donate \$20 for a refuge pass as a prize for this event. Lynette will purchase the pass and give to Ella.

*Key staff members will be away the week of Sept. 18.

*The volunteer newsletter goes out on Sept. 1.

Sharon Ware reported as follows.

*There will be a three day summit on engaging urban communities in conservation. It will be streamed. She and Ella will send information to the Board.

*A contractor will assess the siding on all buildings at headquarters with a view towards replacement.

Board Reports

A. Treasurer. Lynette sent her report prior to the meeting. While the Friends' financial position is strong, she has some concerns about revenue in 2023. It was moved and voted to contribute \$200 to the National Wildlife Refuge Association. There are 280 members.

A discussion of the need to expand the membership followed Lynette's report.

A number of strategies were discussed. The Board decided that:

1. Ted and Kevin will collaborate on a video. It could be shown on a laptop at Friends' events as well as posted on various sites.
2. Ella will update the Friends' Visitor Center slide show. Bill will send "before and after" photos of projects to Ella for inclusion.

B. Technology: Kevin reported as follows.

*He continues to post notices of programs, including Artist of the Month, on social media. He is willing to do a photo show. Ellie will contact him.

*He will contact the Daily News regarding their help in publicizing our programs.

*The Friends could have expanded services via Google Workspace for a fee of about \$500/year. The subscription is month-to-month and could provide centralized storage and access for Board records. After a brief discussion the Board decided to schedule a "training" session on this product. Kevin will set up this training program for board members.

C. President's Report:

1. Ted reported on Walk for the Wild. (Oct. 7 from 10 - 3) Our flyer will be posted on Sept. 1 and he expects a good response. Bill and Peg will staff our table on the Dike on Oct. 7. Ted and Ella will lead a refuge bike ride, a new component. The ride is for families and will go from Lot 1 to Hellcat and back, leaving at 10:00 a.m. There was a short discussion of safety for bikers with concerns expressed regarding cars that speed from Sandy Point. Ella assured the Board that the refuge staff is addressing this problem in a number of ways and feels that safety protocols are in place.

2. The Stage Island platform move in process.

3. When there is a call to the Board for volunteers, members should respond either *yes* or *no* so that the leader knows who to expect and can plan accordingly.

4. Educational events

Swallows & Egrets. Thurs. Aug. 24 @ 5:30. Live at Hellcat. Bill & Doug

New England Shorebirds. Tues. Sept. 19 @7:00. Remote via Zoom. Bill

An Ode to the U.S. Life Saving Service - A Poetic Lecture. Sat. Oct. 21 @

1:00 at the Visitor Center. Ted.

A Quick Trip through Time: The First 13,000 Years of Human History in New England. Sat. Dec. 9, 1:00. Visitor Center. Robert G. Goodby.

5. Brief discussion of a poetry event for next year.

6. Possible speaker for Nov.: Nancy Pau on salt marsh restoration. Ella will approach Nancy about this event.

D. Confirmation of Next Meeting Date(s)

Sept. 13 @ 7:00 via Zoom

Oct. 18 @ 7:00 via Zoom

E. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:52.

Action Items

- *Ella will send Kevin her file on the shorebird poster.
- *Board members will let Ted know whether or not they want to continue on the Board and in their present offices.
- *Lynette will notify members of the beach clean-up.
 - *Kevin will post notices about the clean-up on our website and on social media.
- *Bill will circulate a sign-up sheet for the beach clean-up on Sept. 15. He will also contact Joppa Flats regarding their possible involvement.
- *Board members who want to help with bird mitigation stickers the week of Sept. 25 should let Ella know.
- *Lynette will purchase a \$20 annual refuge pass and give to Ella.
- *Lynette and Ella will send information on the Engaging Urban Communities in Conservation summit to the board.
- *Ted and Kevin will collaborate on a “membership benefits” video.
- *Ella will update the Friends’ Visitor Center slide show.
- *Bill will send “before and after” photos of projects to Ella.
- *Ellie will contact Kevin about his photo show with a view to late fall/winter.
- *Kevin will contact the Daily News regarding their help in publicizing our programs.
- *Kevin will set up a training session on Google Workspace for all Board member.
- *Ella will approach Nancy Pau about speaking on salt marsh restoration.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Bailey
Secretary

