



## Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Board of Directors Meeting  
Monday, April 15, 2024  
7:00 p.m.  
Remote via Zoom

Present: Ellie Bailey, secretary; Jim DeWolf; Bill Gette; Peg Gould, vice president; Kevin Komiega; Lynette Leka, treasurer; Ted Olsson, president; Sandy Tilton; Dave Williams; Matt Hillman, refuge manager; Ella Weber, visitor services.

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 March 18 Board meeting were accepted. A review of action items showed that all had either been completed or were in process.
3. Refuge Manager's Report: Matt Hillman reported as follows.
  - \*It was a very busy Patriot's Day on the refuge with much interest in the Friends. Lynette will give Friend's business cards to Matt for distribution.
  - \*The new front desk ESP staffer will start soon
  - \*Ella is now preparing May/June publicity.
  - \*As of April 15 there are over 40 plovers on the Refuge.
  - \*Clean up from the April storms is nearly complete with signs back up. The maintenance crew is working on installing the Lot 1 boardwalk but for the next three weeks will be diverted to salt marsh restoration. Volunteers are needed to help in late April/early May. Please contact Matt if interested. Matt will let Bill know when Lot 1 work resumes and Bill will enlist volunteers.
  - \*Matt asked the Friends for a \$100 donation to cover prizes (gift passes) for the youth sign contest. It was moved and voted to donate \$100 to the Refuge to be used for youth sign contest prizes. Lynette will buy five passes and give them to Ella.
4. Treasurer's Report: Lynette sent her report prior to the meeting. She noted that our financial picture is about the same except for the receipt of a \$1,000 donation. In response to her question, Matt will let Lynette know the procedure for making the Friend's \$18,000 donation to the Internship Fund.

5. President's Report: Ted Olsson reported as follows.

A. March Activities

\*Peg, Bill and Ted met with representatives from Save the Pink House. It was an informative meeting.

\*The Beach Clean-up was a success with at least 70 volunteers. Kudos to Kevin for his work at Hellcat.

\*Ted and Dave attended the Surfcasters Show and hosted a Friend's table. Ted is exploring collaborating and/or co-sponsoring programs and events with this group.

\*Lynette added that the Friend's memorial plaque for former Board member Doug Chickering has been installed and that she and Lorene are tending Doug's Purple Martin houses at the visitor center.

B. Donor Recognition Event. After a brief discussion the Board agreed to hold a Refuge thank you tour for twelve to fifteen donors on Monday, June 3 with a rain date of June 10. Ted will draft an invitation and Lynette will send the thank you tour guest list to Ted. Bill and Dave will lead the tour and Peg will set up a welcome table. Matt and/or Nancy will join the group. The event will begin at Lot 1 where a carpool will form, then proceed to key point on the Refuge where Friend's projects are evident. Stopping at these points will enable the leaders to show donors how their gifts have been used and to thank them.

C. Environmental Conservation Groups and Flooding of Plum Island Turnpike. Prior the the meeting, Ted sent the Board a draft letter that he proposed sharing with representatives of Essex County Greenbelt, the Trustees of Reservations and Mass. Audubon, groups that own salt marsh in Newbury/Newburyport. After gaining their support, he proposed sending the letter to various news outlets and social media sites. The Board discussed this proposal with comments from Matt and a consensus was reached. Ted will reach out to the above conservation groups regarding the flooding of the Plum Island Turnpike and propose a meeting of representatives from each group for the purposes of discussion.

D. Fundraising Plans: The T-shirt company has not sent a proposal as yet. Anyone interested in being on a fundraising committee should let Ted know.

5. Future Events: Ted reviewed the calendar of events and then focussed on the week of Oct. 13 - 19. He will send in our application for Walk for the Wild on June 30. This year it will consist of multiple events. Bill offered to do an Introduction to Birdwatching Program. Other Board members were encouraged to send ideas to Ted by June 30. Lynette will send Ted the exact amount raised from last year's Walk for the Wild.

Date	Date	Status
Apr. 27 @ 1:00 - 2:30	Back from the Brink (Ted/Dave Williams)	Confirmed
May 2 @ 7:00 - 8:15	Wood Warblers of New England (Virtual) (Bill)	Confirmed
May 4 @1:00	Saving the Great Salt Marsh (Ted/Nancy Pau)	Confirmed
June 15	Let's Go Outside (Refuge Staff)	Time t.b.d.
Aug. 22	Swallows & Egrets (field trip) (Bill & Dave)	Time t.b.d.
Oct. 13 - 19	National Wildlife Refuge Week/Walk for the Wild (Ted)	Dates/Times t.b.d.
Oct.	Introduction to Birdwatching (Bill & Dave)	Date/Time t.b.d.
Oct 19	The Plum of Islands Poetry Project (Peg)	Time t.b.d.
Later in 2024	Hawk Migrations or Bald Eagles (Paul Roberts)	In idea stage

## 6. Next Meeting

Monday, May 13 at 7:00

Tuesday, June 18 at 7:00

7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

## Action Items

\*Lynette will give Friend's business cards to Matt for distribution.

\*Anyone interested in helping with salt marsh restoration late April/early May, please contact Matt.

\*Matt will let Bill know when Lot 1 work resumes and Bill will enlist volunteers.

\*Lynette will buy five Refuge passes and give them to Ella.

\* Matt will let Lynette know the procedure for making the Friend's \$18,000 donation to the Internship Fund.

\*Ted will draft an invitation to the June 3 thank you tour.

\*Lynette will send the thank you tour guest list to Ted.

\*Ted will reach out to the Essex County Greenbelt, Trustees of Reservations and Mass. Audubon regarding the flooding of the Plum Island Turnpike and propose a meeting of representatives from each group for the purposes of discussion.

\*Lynette will send the thank you tour guest list to Ted.

\*Anyone with a Walk for the Wild idea should send to Ted before the June 30 deadline.

\*Lynette will send Ted the exact amount raised from last year's Walk for the Wild