



Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, June 18, 2024
7:00 p.m.
Remote via Zoom

Present: Ellie Bailey, secretary; 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.

Absent: Jim DeWolfe

I. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m. by President Ted Olsson.

II. Secretary's Report. The minutes of the May 13 Board meeting were accepted. A review of action items showed that all had either been completed or were in process.

III. Refuge Update. Ella Weber reported as follows.

*There have been a number of new hires. Ella will send their names to the Board.

*Pepperweed volunteers are needed for a neighborhood project.

*There will be Refuge boat tours with volunteer naturalists on board again this summer.

Interested Board members, please contact Ella.

*Ella thanked the Friends for donating Refuge passes and asked for one additional pass. The Board agreed.

*Ella asked for a donation of summer camp snacks. The Board agreed.

*A funding source for the *Blooms, Bees and Bathrooms* mural project has been identified and a request for funds is being made.

*Ella thanked all who helped with this year's very successful Let's Go Outside and who joined the Refuge staff in the Newburyport Pride Parade.

*Ella is working with an artist on a glow in the dark astronomy mural. The artist has asked for used yard signs. 80 are needed.

Matt Hillman reported as follows.

- *There has been a 15 million dollar reduction in federal refuge funding this year. Staffing will be impacted so Friends' support is very much appreciated.
- *He offered good wishes for the two holidays that occur this week: Father's Day and Juneteenth.
- *Lot 1 stairs are under construction.
- *The Moby Mat is holding up well. It is not ADA compliant.
- *There is no further information on the GSA auction of the Pink House. Matt will keep the Board informed.

IV. Treasurer's Report. Lynette sent her report ahead of the meeting. She commented that there has been little change overall. The Lets's Go Outside table yielded donations and she thanked Ted and Peg for hosting. Lynette added that funds will be needed for the 2025 internship and phragmites mowing. (Bill will coordinate mowing with Matt's help in 2024.) To publicize our contribution to the Internship Fund, Lynette, Matt and Ted will create a "big check photo."

V. Technology Report. Kevin reported as follows.

- *He will send the Board a three question technology survey before the next meeting.
- *The donation page now works properly.
- *He will be redesigning/updating the Friends website before the July meeting.
- *Board members with photos to share should forward to Kevin and include a title. Off refuge photos are o.k.
- *Kevin will send Ella archived photos from the website for use in updating the Friends' slide show used in the Visitor Center.

VI. President's Report. Ted reported as follows.

- *Congratulations to all for a great Let's Go Outside.
- *The Board voted to contribute \$500 to the *Blooms, Bees and Bathrooms* mural project.
- *Thanks to Bill for marching in the Pride Parade.
- *Ellie, Peg, Sandy and Lynette will be a committee for the donor recognition event. They will work on the invitation and on hospitality and begin once a date for the event is set.
- *Fund raising ideas should be sent to Ted for a list that he is compiling.

*Walk for the Wild was discussed. Possible ideas include collaboration with the astronomy group and with Livable Streets, birding (Bill), Stage Island walk (Ellie), bird banding station hike (Bill/Ella)

| Date | Date | Status |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Aug. 22 @ 5:00 p.m. | Swallows & Egrets program at Hellcat (Bill & Dave) | Confirmed |
| Aug. 23 @ 5:00 p.m. | Swallows & Egrets Rain Date | Confirmed |
| Fall | Donor Recognition | Date needed |

| Date | Date | Status |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Oct. | Introduction to Birdwatching (Bill & Dave) | Date/Time t.b.d. |
| Oct 5 | The Plum of Islands Poetry Project (Peg) | Time t.b.d. |
| Oct. 13 - 19 | Walk for the Wild/National Wildlife Refuge Week | Application due June 30 Events t.b.d. |
| Nov. | Cranberry Walk | Planned but not scheduled Bill, Sandy, Ellie, Lynette to lead. |
| Later in 2024 | Hawk Migrations or Bald Eagles (Paul Roberts) | In idea stage. Pd. speaker |
| Later in 2024 or early 2025 | James Russell | Proposed |
| 2025 | Kristine Malpika | Suggested |
| May 10/11, 17/18, 24/25 | Outreach table at Lot 1 from 10 - 2 daily on middle two weekends. | Suggested |

VII. Maintenance Projects. Ella asked for volunteers for various trimming jobs. Bill volunteered to organize work at the Pines Trail for the week of June 23.

VIII. Family Centric Events. Ted suggested youth birding, fishing, biking, especially in collaboration with other groups. He encouraged the Board to sent ideas to him.

IX. Next Meeting

July 16 @7:00 via Zoom

Aug. 20 @ 7:00 via Zoom

X. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Action Items

- *Ella will send names of new hires to the Board.
- *Members interested volunteering for the pepperweed project, as naturalists on the boat tours, or to trim parking areas, etc. contact Ella.
- *Lynette will send Ella funds for a Refuge pass.
- *Lynette will send Ella funds for summer camp snacks.
- *Ella will send Kevin a write up on the astronomy mural/yard sign project to post.
- *Lynette, Matt and Ted will create a “Big Check photo.”
- *Kevin will send Ella archived photos from the website
- *Bill and Ella will contact Ben Flamer re: bird banding hike.
- *Bill will organize work at the Pines Trail for the week of June 23