



Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Board of Directors Meeting Monday, May 13, 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 7:01 by President Ted Olsson.
2. Secretary's Report: The minutes of the April 15 Board meeting were accepted. A review of action items showed that all had either been completed or were in process. Ted reported that after much thought, he felt the letter regarding sea level rise should be tabled for the time being. The Board agreed.
3. Refuge Manager's Report: Matt Hillman and Ella Weber reported as follows:
 - *Matt requested that internship funds for 2024 be used to extend support for Melissa who is currently an intern. It was moved and voted to use the Friends' 2024 internship contribution of \$18,000 to support an internship extension for Melissa. Lynette will send Fish and Wildlife a check.
 - *Matt recommended visiting the conservation easement property in Concord, NH, home of the Blue Kerner Butterfly and an interesting pine barrens habitat. He will let the Board know when he is going up there next.
 - *Lot 1 boardwalk reconstruction will be in June. Matt will let Bill and the Board know the exact dates when scheduled.
 - *Let's Go Outside is June 15 from 9 to 3. Board members who want to volunteer should let Ella know. Kevin volunteered to print stickers for the Friends table to give out at the event and Bill volunteered to do a birding station at Hellcat from 10:30 - 12:30.
 - *Livable Streets will be meeting with Ella soon. Ted will join the meeting to discuss biking activities on the Refuge.
 - *Seasonal staff members are arriving. Heather will remain as a pepperweed tech.
 - *Ella asked for volunteers to help with second grade field trips on May 28, 29 & 30.

*Ospreys are nesting on the Pink House. They can be seen with a spotting scope.

*Ella invited the Board to join some of the Refuge staff and march in the Pride Parade.

4. Treasurer's Report: Lynette sent her report prior to the meeting. She noted that our financial picture is about the same except for \$500 in memorial contributions recently received. There are 300 members. Lynette foresees about \$200 in plant expenses for the Pollinator Garden. She received a request from the National Association of Refuges for a contribution to their Spring Appeal. As there is a match, the Board agreed to donate at this time but only once in 2024.

5. Technology Report: Kevin reported that he continues to upgrade our hybrid capability at the Visitor Center. Tech comments resulted in the following.

*Ella will add Kevin to her email list for plover updates so that he can post plover information on the Friends' website.

*Bill, Ted, Lynette and Kevin will meet to verify internet account contact information and access to the donation page.

*AV presentations at the Visitor Center are being updated including the Friends' slide show. Ella asked for new photos of Friends' activities. Ted will send a copy of the Annual Meeting slide show.

6. President's Report:

A. Donor Recognition: After some discussion, the Board decided to postpone this event until the fall.

B. Future Events

Date	Date	Status
June 15	Let's Go Outside (Refuge Staff)	Time t.b.d.
Aug. 22	Swallows & Egrets (field trip) (Bill & Dave)	Time t.b.d.
Fall	Donor Recognition	
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	Application due June 30 Events t.b.d.
Nov.	Cranberry Walk	Planned but not scheduled
Later in 2024	Hawk Migrations or Bald Eagles (Paul Roberts)	In idea stage. Pd. speaker
Later in 2024	James Russell	Proposed
May 10/11, 17/18, 24/25	Outreach table at Lot 1 from 10 - 2 daily on middle two weekends.	Suggested

C. Attendance Data: Ella requested that leaders submit attendance data for Friends' programs to her. She will send copies of the form to be used to the Board.

7. Next Meeting

Tuesday, June 18 at 7:00

Tuesday, July 16 at 7:00

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

Action Items

*Lynette will send Fish and Wildlife a check for \$18,000 from the Internship Fund.

*Matt will let the Board know when he is going to the conservation easement property in Concord, NH.

* Matt will let Bill and the Board know the exact dates of the Lot 1 boardwalk reconstruction when scheduled.

*Board members who want to volunteer for Let's Go Outside should let Ella know.

*Ella will let Ted know the date/time for her next meeting with Livable Streets.

*Kevin will print stickers for Let's Go Outside.

*Bill will do a birding station at Hellcat from 10:30 - 12:30 at Let's Go Outside.

*Anyone who can help with the field trips on May 28, 29 and 30 should contact Ella.

*Ella will add Kevin to her email list for plover updates.

*Bill, Ted, Lynette and Kevin will meet to verify internet account contact information and access to the donation page.

*Ted will send Ella a copy of the Annual Meeting slide show. Others with Friends' photos should send to Ella.

*Ella will send copies of the form to be used for attendance data to the Board.

*Anyone interested in marching in the Pride Parade contact Ella.