



## Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

### Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2024 7:00 p.m. Remote via Zoom

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

I. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Ted Olsson.

II. Secretary's Report. The minutes of the July 16 Board meeting were accepted. A review of action items showed that some had been completed or were in process and some needed to be carried over as action items.

III. Refuge Staff Update: Matt Hillman congratulated Ella Weber on two awards. She was named Visitor Services Manager of the Year, a regional honor, and has received a Spark award, a national level honor. Ella congratulated Matt on being chosen Refuge Manager of the Year, a regional award. The Board will send official letters of congratulations to Matt and Ella. Matt also reported that expenses for the demolition of the Pink House will not come from the Parker River budget.

Ella reported as follows.

\*Cindy, the Hispanic Access intern has been extended to May 2025.

\*The environmental ed. position is open and being advertised.

\*The administrative assistant (front desk) position should be filled by Nov.

\*The Friends slide show is being updated. (Ella sent a copy with a request for better quality photos, if available.)

\*Brian (maintenance) is in Alaska.

\*Thanks for camper snacks. Ella requested snacks for the Housing Authority program. Lynette and Ella will discuss.

\*Ella will be gone from Sept. 1 until the end of Oct.

\*Volunteers are needed for vegetation management, framing new entrance signs, and for salt marsh restoration.

IV. Treasurer's Report: Lynette reported that our financial picture is good. A donation in excess of \$3,000 has come in and is to be used as needed. It could lead to a match from the donor's employer. Due to non-renewals membership is down. Renewals have not been possible online this summer and Lynette is still working with PayPal to resolve this problem. When time permits she will work on writing protocols for the treasurer.

V. Technology Report: Kevin is posting current programs and will post upcoming events. Redesign of the website is ongoing.

VI. President's Report

A. Ted attended a recent North Shore Astronomy Club event and can see possibilities for collaboration.

B. It was moved and voted to elect Peter Hickey to the Board to fill the seat now open by Sandy Tilton's resignation.

C. Lynette will notify members of the Aug. 27 (rain date Aug. 29) trail maintenance at Hellcat. (Pines Trail maintenance will be during the Beach Clean-Up.)

D. Invitations to the Donor Event/Sustaining Member Event will go out on Aug. 30. Matt and Ella will get Marissa (intern) involved.

VII. Walk for the Wild. Our page will go live on Sept. 9. Events on Oct. 13 include Stage Island Walk (Ellie @ 10 - 12), Refuge Road Bike Ride (Ted), Dike Hike and Scavenger Hunt (Bill & David), Hellcat Nature Trail Hike (Peg & Lynette). Registration on Oct. 13 is via QR code at the Visitor Center with coffee/donuts/drinks.

Refuge events for National Wildlife Refuge Week include: Oct. 12 - Woman's outdoor program; Oct. 13 - Fee free day; Oct. 14 - Fee waiver for WFTW; Oct. 19 - Youth waterfowl hunt; Oct. 12 - 19 - MA waterfowl hunt

VII. Poetry Event. Ted and Peg have almost completed a flyer for this Oct. 26 event and are working on marketing. Registration is limited to 20.

VIII. Bonfire: Ted has established an account for the Friends with this online merchandising company. He will continue to research how the Friends might utilize what they have to offer for fund raising. A graphic design intern currently at Parker River may be able to help with a design for Friends products. Ella will send her contact information to Ted. (She leaves Sept. 30.)

IX. Beach Clean - Up: The event will take place on Sept. 28. Bill will circulate a sign-up sheet for the Board soon.

X. Future Events

A. Ellie is working with Ella and the Nov./Dec. artist-of-the-month to develop a winter/holiday themed painting workshop. The Friends will handle registration and the Refuge will pay her fee and provide space and materials.

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
Sept. 28	Coast Sweep & National Public Lands Day Bill in charge of Coast Sweep/Beach Clean-Up	Confirmed
Oct. 1 Oct. 3 Rain	Donor Recognition	Confirmed
Oct. 21	Introduction to Birdwatching (Bill & Dave)	7:00 via Zoom
Oct 26	The Plum of Islands Poetry Project (Peg)	10 a.m.- 12 noon
Oct. 13 - 19	Walk for the Wild/National Wildlife Refuge Week	Application approved
Nov. 16	Dave Williams on Backyard Bird Feeding	Time needed
Nov. 2 or 9?	Cranberry Walk	Planned but not scheduled Bill, Ellie to lead.
Dec. 7?	Painting Workshop with Patty Evans	date/time tbc
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

XI Next Meeting Dates (via Zoom)

Sept. 9 @ 7:00

Oct. 7 @ 7:00

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

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Bailey  
Secretary

- \*Ella will send names of new hires to the Board.
- \*Kevin will send Ella archived photos from the Friends website.
- \*Bill and/or Ella will contact Ben Flemmer about a bird banding hike.
- \*Anyone with better quality photos for the slide show should send them to Ella.
- \*Lynette and Ella will discuss snacks for the Housing Authority program.
- \*Anyone interested in volunteering for vegetation management, framing new entrance signs, or salt marsh restoration, please contact Ella.
- \*Lynette will notify members of the Aug. 27 (rain date Aug. 29) trail maintenance at Hellcat. Start time is 8:00 a.m.
- \* Matt and Ella will get Marissa (intern) involved in the Oct. 1 Donor Event.
- \* Ella will send the contact information for the graphic design intern to Ted.
- \*Ted, writing on behalf of the Board, will send official letters of congratulations to Matt and Ella.