



Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge

APPROVED MINUTES For Online Zoom Meeting May 7, 2024 5:00 pm

AGENDA:

- 5:00 Introductions
- 5:05 Updates
- Partner Updates
 - AmeriCorps (Grace)
 - Pollinator garden cleanups, canal cleanup, articles, WFTW videos/infographics
 - WBNERR (Ryan)
 - Upcoming events and opportunities
 - Mashpee Conservation (Dan)
 - Tree planting at Santuit River
 - Falmouth Conservation (Mark)
 - Coonamessett Fields
 - Other Partners?
 - Visitor Center
 - \$30k state funds!
 - Meet with Town Manager (TBD)
 - Walk for the Wild (WFTW)
 - Walk route (May 14 or 15?)
 - Next meeting (June or July)
 - 2024-2025 AmeriCorps Cape Cod Individual Placement
 - Upcoming talks:
 - Mashpee Senior Center: 5/8 (horseshoe crabs), 6/13 (ospreys), 6/25 (MNWR), 7/15 (MNWR), 8/5 (monarchs), 8/12 (MNWR)
 - Osterville Library: 5/18 (ospreys)
- 5:45 Other Business
- Approve [April 2nd Monthly Meeting Minutes](#)
 - Membership Report
 - Friends Merchandise (t-shirts, hats, totes, mugs, stickers, etc.)
 - Accountant review/preparation of taxes?
 - FWS Friends Agreement

Meeting called to order at 5:04 pm

Board Members Attending:

President: Glenn Davis, Treasurer: MaryKay Fox, Clerk: Lucinda Keith, Historian: F Thomas Fudala, Director Emeritus: David Vieira, Neil Barkin, Nancy Church, and Tania Lewandowski,

Others in attendance:

Ryan Clark (WBNERR), Grace Vachon (AmeriCorps), Grace Bottitta Williamson,(USFWS) Mark Kasprzyk (Falmouth Conservation), Tom Eagle (USFWS), and Wilson Acuna (USFWS)

Meeting Minutes

Updates:

The order of the agenda changed as Partners attended the meeting.

● **Partner Updates**

- WBNERR (Ryan)
 - Ryan shared the upcoming events
 - June 18: Cape Coastal Conference
 - Emerald Resort in Hyannis
 - Evenings on the bluff every Tuesday in July at 6:30pm
 - August 4, 3-6 pm - Friends of Waquoit Bay Cookout on the Bay. Partners are invited to have a table at the event.
 - August 13, 5-8pm - Kids Teaching Kids
 - Quashnet area having a clean up done after DCR Rangers have been involved
 - **TASK TO BE DONE:**
 - Ryan will send an email with more details about the upcoming event.
 - Connect Belonging to Each Other to Rep David Viera re: Quashnet

● **Visitor Center**

- \$30k state funds!
 - Rep. Vieira shared that money was earmarked to the Friends
 - MA Senate will conference in June and debate to fund July 1, 2024
 - If the procedure is similar to last year and passed Friends would connect with Energy and Environment Department, ½ funding would be given at the beginning
 - **Want to be shovel ready with the plans for design and construction when/if money is allotted**
- Meet with Town Manager (TBD)
 - We discussed need to schedule a meeting with Mashpee Town Manager

- TASK TO COMPLETE

- Glenn will email the Town Manager May 8, 2024 to set up a meeting

- **Partner Updates**

- Mashpee Conservation (Glenn)
 - Tree planting at Santuit River
 - Over 300 Atlantic White Cedars were planted
 - Chiefy was there and joined by other members of the Wampanoag Tribe
- AmeriCorps (Grace)
 - Pollinator garden cleanups, canal cleanup, articles, WFTW videos/infographics
 - Friends and AmeriCorp cleaned up, planted and put down seeds at the pollinator gardens at Refuge Trailheads
 - Canal cleanup
 - Working on WFTW videos and infographics
 - Doing research for the infographics and articles
 - Updating the website with news from the Osprey cam
- Falmouth Conservation (Mark)
 - Coonamessett Fields
 - Clearing the western field of Upper Coonamessett near 151 and Ranch Road of spindlewood, locust and invasive plants leaving native plants and grassland
 - Locust being repurposed to make fencing, spindlewood repurposed at Mill Pond in Mashpee for project with USGS, Mashpee Wampanoag and Mashpee Conservation
 - Lucinda contact Jason Sorenson about using remaining spindlewood
 - Mark and Tom Eagle discussed York Landscape Rakes/Soil Conditioner/Harley Rake needed for the project
 - Mark contact Falmouth Rod and Gun Club (Tom Parker) or Bobcat in Bourne about this equipment
 - Next week more volunteers needed to join 300 Committee
 - Mark email date/time to volunteer

- MaryKay contact Jason Steiding about Red Cedars to be used at POH this summer
- Other Partners?
 - Tom Eagle shared budget and staffing cuts impacting travel
 - Partners Meeting?
 - Tom Eagle will set up Partners Meeting possibly in August after Friends meet with Mashpee Town Manager: Topic Visitor Center and Partners involvement
- **Walk for the Wild (WFTW)**
 - Walk route (May 14 or 15?)
 - Date set for May 14th at 10 am, rain date May 15th at 10 am
 - Lucinda contact Dan to open gate to have easy access to area we will walk
 - Asked those on the WFTW Planning Team to update the attachment in the email sent about the WFTW
 - Next meeting (June or July)
 - Put July 2nd and 9th on your calendar for possible WFTW Planning Meeting
 - Received \$250.00 sponsorship from Cape Cod 5
- **2024-2025 AmeriCorps Cape Cod Individual Placement**
 - Draft application feedback will be returned on May 8th
- **Upcoming talks:**
 - Mashpee Senior Center: 5/8 (horseshoe crabs), 6/13 (ospreys), 6/25 (MNWR), 7/15 (MNWR), 8/5 (monarchs), 8/12 (Climate Change)
 - Neil can contact Jon Shuman, activity director, with any questions about using computer; bring your own computer or Friends' laptop
 - Osterville Library: 5/18 (ospreys)

Other Business

- **Approve [April 2nd Monthly Meeting Minutes](#)**
 - Minutes for April 2, 2024 were approved unanimously.
- **Membership Report**
 - There were 6 new memberships, 3 renewals, 1 recurring
 - Also our first new Sponsor for WFTW from Roche Bros.; Glenn added that he was just notified that CC5 will also be a sponsor for \$250

- **Friends Merchandise (t-shirts, hats, totes, mugs, stickers, etc.)**
 - MaryKay reviewed options (cups, hats, notebooks, pens, shirts, totes and business cards)
 - Tania volunteered to work on graphics and email choices to Friends
 - Neil asked about shortening the website domain we use. It was agreed that we could register a new domain (fmnwr.org) to point to the longer version. Glenn will check on availability and register this.

- **Accountant review/preparation of taxes?**
 - Discussion over hiring a CPA that is familiar with working with nonprofits
 - Will research CPAs that work with nonprofits, to see if adding new clients and their cost

- **FWS Agreement**
 - Directors were sent a copy to review prior to the meeting and asked to review
 - There was a discussion to address a maximum of \$500 sale amounts
 - ***After the discussion there was a unanimous vote for Glenn to sign the FWS Agreement as written.***

Unanimous vote to adjourn at 6:51 pm