



# Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge

## **APPROVED MINUTES For Online Zoom Meeting January 7, 2025**

### **AGENDA:**

*Meeting Etiquette: To keep our meetings as productive as possible and to encourage a welcoming and respectful atmosphere for all participants, please:*

- *Be on time and come prepared*
- *Listen to others without interrupting*
- *Keep comments brief and on-point (refrain from personal stories)*
- *Respect each other's thinking and value everyone's contributions*
- *Follow-through on action items*

- 5:00 Introductions
- 5:05 Updates
  - Partner Updates
    - USFWS (Grace)
    - AmeriCorps (Kaycee)
    - WBNERR (Ryan)
  - Visitor Center
    - State earmark status
    - Lease status (Dan)
    - Planning discussions with Partners
    - Confirmation of proposed dates: (Ryan)
      - Meeting 1: Wednesday, Jan 15 (9:30am-2:30pm)
      - Meeting 2: Thursday, Jan 30 (9:30am-12:30pm)
      - Meeting 3 (if needed): Thursday, Feb 13 (9:30am-11:30am)
  - WFTW 2024 Financial Report (Lucinda)
- 5:30 Other Business
  - 30th Anniversary Celebration \$500 grant available USFWS Retirees Assoc.
  - Membership Report (Lucinda)
- 5:45 Executive Session (Board only)
  - Approve [December 3rd Meeting Minutes](#)
  - 2025 Planning (board decisions: AmeriCorps, WFTW, etc)
  - Annual Work Plan for USFWS
- 6:15 Adjourn

### **Meeting called to order at 5:03**

### **Board Members Attending:**

President: Glenn Davis, Treasurer: MaryKay Fox, Clerk: Lucinda Keith, Historian: F Thomas Fudala, and Tania Lewandowski

### **Others in attendance:**

Dan Kent (Mashpee Conservation), Ryan Clark (WBNERR), Grace Bottitta Williamson,(USFWS), Mark Kasprzyk (Falmouth Conservation), Lynn Atkins (Orenda), Kaycee Doherty (AmeriCorps) and Lynn Barbee

## **Meeting Minutes**

- Meeting Etiquette reviewed
- Introductions were made
  
- **Updates:**
  - Partner Updates
    - USFWS (Grace)
      - Still in continuing resolution
        - Do not yet have operating budget
      - Prioritizing and using strategies to determine projects
      - Tentative plans our 3 Friends groups to meet in the Spring 2025 with Eastern USFWS staff to prioritize new opportunities using strategies to develop intentional annual plans
      - Assabet Visitor Center is office for USFWS since their headquarters was closed
      - Newly acquired intern position to coordinate Friends groups and USFWS
      - Please share events with the other Friends groups on FaceBook
    - AmeriCorps (Kaycee)
      - Creature feature: Kinglet article completed
      - Met with FHS teachers re pollinator gardens
        - Friends, FHS teacher and students worked at Lawrence Middle School, Falmouth
        - Article written, sent to FHS for principal approval, then to the Editor of Falmouth Enterprise
        - Thank you Lynn Barbee for the suggestion to write articles for the newspaper.
      - Set date to meet with staff from Bournedale about their pollinator garden
      - Drafting Membership Letter
      - Creating Presentation about Pollinator Plants
      - **TASK TO COMPLETE (Lucinda/Tania)**
        - **Contact radio and Podcast creator to discuss projects (Tania provide contact information)**
  
  - WBNERR (Ryan)

- Source to Sea
  - **TASK FOR US ALL**
    - Look for email from Ryan sent during our meeting with flyer about Source to Sea restoration projects and Kristen Weir's email
    - Email Kristen if you would like to participate as community partner
- Dredging began Saturday on Washburn Island
- Southern Pine Beetle on Washburn Island
  - Removal of 30-40 trees with permit late February
- Grant to rebuild/restore Quashnet River to restore brook trout
- Mashpee Conservation (Dan)
  - CPC acquiring property south of John's Pond
- Falmouth Conservation (Mark)
  - Fields at Upper Coonamessett
    - Mowing, removal of invasives
    - Possible prescribed burns after permitting
- Orenda (Lynn)
  - Looking at properties
    - Locating invasives and removing
- Visitor Center
  - State earmark status
    - First half was received
    - Must spend that plus other half by June 30th
    - Seeking engineers and architects
    - **TASK TO COMPLETE (Tom)...Send survey plans with water lines**
  - Lease status (Dan)
    - Dan has revised the lease
    - Wrote as phase approach with no dates, timelines, and can also opt out of a phase
    - Plan of Record will be included
    - Questions will be asked to legal department
    - Answers should be provided by end of this week
  - Planning discussions with Partners
    - Looking for primary or secondary Partner representatives at the meetings
  - Confirmation of proposed dates: (Ryan)
    - Facilitator not yet confirmed dates
    - Meeting 1: Wednesday, Jan 15 (9:30am-2:30pm)

- Meeting 2: Thursday, Jan 30  
(9:30am-12:30pm)
  - Meeting 3 (if needed): Thursday, Feb 13  
(9:30am-11:30am)
  - If the last date is not needed Tom Eagle would like it to be the Partners Meeting at the BoatHouse at WBNERR
  - **TASK TO COMPLETE (Glenn)**
    - **Send the confirmed dates and agenda once confirmed**
- WFTW 2024 Financial Report (Lucinda)
  - Total revenue increased from previous year
  - We raised \$4,316.17
  - Amplifier Fund was less than past years
  - Expenses increased this year due to informational signs, printing \$1,055.87
  - Net revenue was \$3,260.30
  - Registered to walk 28
  - 10 more walkers this year, total of 29
  - Hoping to continue upward numbers for registration/walkers
    - Next year Contact walking groups
    - WFTW Planning Team Reflection Meeting will be scheduled in next month
- We decided to continue the Meeting to discuss other agenda items at another day/time
 

*Executive Session (Board only)*

  - Approve [December 3rd Meeting Minutes](#)
  - 2025 Planning (board decisions: AmeriCorps, WFTW, etc)
  - Annual Work Plan for USFWS
- Meeting will be Thursday, January 9th and 5:00pm

**Unanimous vote to adjourn at 8:37**