



Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge

AGENDA

November 10, 2020

Annual Meeting

- 5:00 Friends Introduction
- 5:10 Friends Updates
- 5:30 Partners Updates
- 5:45 David Ross Palmer Award
- 5:50 Election of Officers

FMNWR Meeting Minutes / ANNUAL MEETING

APPROVED 2/2/2021

Tuesday, November 10, 2020

Online Zoom Meeting

Meeting called to order 5:01 PM

Board Members Attending: Katelyn Cadoret, MaryKay Fox, Tom Fudala, Glenn Davis, Nancy Church

Others in Attendance: Tom Eagle, Mark Kasprzyk, A.D. Colburn (FR&GC), Linn Phu (F&WS), Ally McNeil (AmeriCorps), Tim Lynch, Neil Barkin, Andy Mekelburg, Tonna-Marie Rogers (WBNERR), Kelsey Mackey (F&WS), Jeff Thibodeau (Orenda)

Friends Introduction:

Katelyn described the role of the Friends and provided a description of the Refuge.

Glenn Davis was added as a member of the Board. Resignations of Birgit Nelson and Carol Finn were announced and accepted with regret. Board votes were unanimous. Birgit had been a Board member since 2012 and Carol since 2019.

Friends Updates:

Review of past year's activities:

We are Mashpee store talks at Mashpee Commons were done by Andrew Schwitzgebel (well attended talk on Fischer's), Katelyn and MaryKay, who did talks about the Refuge.

Rabbitat Brochure draft completed by Andrew Schwitzgebel (former AmeriCorps).

Winter 2020 Newsletter.

2019 David Ross Palmer Award given to surviving Refuge founders.

New parking area created off Red Brook Road at Great Hay Road (F&WS property) along with a kiosk built by AmeriCorps and a pollinator garden.

Maintained and improved all our pollinator gardens.

“Wild About Wildlife” fundraiser at Naukabout Beer Co. had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. Also had to cancel 7th Grade Quashnet River field trips.

Upgraded website.

Katelyn, MaryKay and Nancy attended F&WS Northeast Region Friends Groups Peer-to-Peer Workshop held on September 26. Scheduled to attend November 14 and February 27, 2021 workshops. Glenn will attend some.

Other items discussed:

The late Mary Scanlan was remembered for her 2 decades of service on the Board.

Katelyn was congratulated on her great work as Chair.

The Covid-19 situation has allowed the Board to focus on organizational issues this year.

Andy Mekelburg congratulated us on the Red Brook Road kiosk and asked if we have any money problems. (He’s a p/t resident and trout fisherman from Maryland.)

Linh Phu asked if we have thought about on-line or webinar events to raise funds. (Web Site “scavenger funds”) Katelyn indicated we hope to do more online with AmeriCorps’ Ally and would appreciate Linh’s involvement.

Partners Updates:

A.D. Colburn reported that **Falmouth Rod & Gun Club** and others are working on the Upper Childs River trout stream restoration and conversion of the Farley and Garner cranberry bogs to natural wetlands. Also hosted Ron Amedon of MA F&W at the restoration sites. Installation of new culvert under Carriage Shop Road is delayed until 3/30/21 during ban on work due to fish run. The Club is also doing a forestry management plan for habitat improvement. Their 5 acres of pollinator fields continue to be maintained.

Tom Eagle noted FR&GC \$68,000 seed money for matching F&WS and Federal Highway funds, SNEP grants and \$816,000 DER funds for the Childs River project.

Trout Unlimited is still working on the lower Quashnet River trout restoration. Steve Hurley of MA F&W does an electro-shocking survey twice a year. Tim Lynch noted that Fran Smith has pre-positioned materials for 5-6 volunteers. He’s also developed a new root ball method to plant trees above the water table along the banks. Tim says we need to honor Fran for his 44 years of work on the River.

The Rod & Gun Club will be maintaining their 5 acres of pollinator fields.

Katelyn described the **Upper Quashnet River bog restoration** project being done by the Town of Mashpee. Horsley-Witten consultants currently working on background data etc.

A Red Brook Road culvert working group has been established.

Tom Eagle reported that the Fish & Wildlife Service is hoping to continue Pine Barrens burning to benefit New England Cottontail rabbits and Northern Long Eared Bats. He said a lot of the fire breaks and roadsides are growing back in and need work. He also indicated that they need a new “burn boss” and that they are very rare. Joel Carlson is no longer available, since he took a job burning on Joint Base Cape Cod and his Northeast Fire

Management firm is no more. The last year of his F&WS burning contract has been cancelled.

In response to a question from Tom F about Barrens Buck Moths, he indicated that they seem to be doing OK, since they like new shrub oak plants.

Jeff Thibodeau reported that Orenda bought a 14 acre property for \$225K that connects their Carl Monge Sanctuary with their Makepeace and Mercy Lowe Sanctuaries.

David Ross Palmer Award:

This award is named for the late David Ross Palmer, co-founder and first president of the Friends (1995-2000), who was a champion of the environment, particularly the Waquoit Bay watershed. The Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge, Inc. (FMNWR) initiated this award in honor of David in 2013 to community leaders who demonstrate outstanding dedication and excellent stewardship and conservation work within the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge.

President Cadoret announced that his year's recipient is **MaryKay Fox**:

"MaryKay joined the Friends Board of Directors in 2004, having come to the Cape in 1999 from Minnesota to work at the MBL Ecosystems Center. She volunteered at several non-profits, the New England Aquarium and the Cape Cod Stranding Network, which led to her working at the National Marine Life Center in Buzzards Bay, where she rehabilitated their first patient, a cold-stunned Loggerhead named "ECO". She then moved to the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (WBNERR).

"Since 2004, she has been on the Board of Directors, as President from 2011 through 2018; and now Treasurer & Web Manager.

"MaryKay has been an absolute treasure to the Friends Board. She has kept this group energized and moving forward with grants and new initiatives. She attended the Friends Academy in 2013, where one rep from 25 different Friends organizations throughout the US met to learn from each other and share experiences. It was there she was inspired to initiate the History Book for the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge and to solidify our board structure, including bylaws and organizational chart. In 2013, she helped the Town of Mashpee, during AmeriCorps week, to establish native pollinator gardens throughout the Refuge and install kiosks at our trail heads. She also was integral in getting Community Preservation Act funding for the History Book, a new trail map, and a new Friends brochure in 2016. In 2016 she also secured funding for a Monarch Meadows Grant from the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, which ended up being \$24,000. The Falmouth Rod and Gun Club also donated \$5,000 for field prep. The purpose of the grant was to plant milkweed, other native host plants and nectar and pollen producing plants for monarchs and other native pollinator species. There was an educational component where teachers could design and plant school gardens through their STEM program. Over 13 schools, 20 teachers, and 985 kids participated in the program. We can't thank you enough, MaryKay, for all you've done and all you do. We are sincerely lucky to have you as part of this Board. You are the heart and soul of the Friends group."

Election of Officers:

The Board's Officers were elected as follows:

Katelyn Cadoret was re-elected as President
Glenn Davis was elected as Vice President (new officer position).
MaryKay Fox was re-elected as Treasurer.
F. Thomas Fudala was re-elected as Clerk.

All votes were unanimous.

Adjournment: There being no other business, the Board voted to adjourn at 6:18 pm.