



Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge

MINUTES

December 7, 2021 Online Zoom Meeting

AGENDA

5:00 Introductions (5 minutes)

5:05 Approve November Minutes

5:10 Budget/Treasurer's Report

5:20 Updates

- Membership Committee
- Pollinator Brochure
- Pollinator Gardens
- Newsletter
- Osprey Nest Cam
- Rabbitat Brochure Finalize
 - Reach out to other Towns
- Status of conducting prescribed burns for 2022 & potential future staffing
- Mass Wildlife Habitat Grant – approval for 2022 invasive control & additional clearing at Coonamessett fields
- Partners Meeting
- USFWS Staffing
- Other

6:00 Adjourn

Meeting called to order at 5:05 pm

Board Members Attending: Pres. Katelyn Cadoret, VP Glenn Davis, Clerk Tom Fudala, Treasurer MaryKay Fox, Nancy Church, Neil Barkin, Joan Barkin

Others in attendance: Tom Eagle (USF&WS), Joan Muller (WBNERR), Emilie Brush (AmeriCorps), Mark Kasprzyk (Falmouth Conservation)

• **FMNWR Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, November 2, 2021 Meeting**

Joan B said something about "Wo" in 2nd paragraph. Glenn suggested removing the reference to the Amy Brown landowners

On motion by Glenn, seconded by Nancy, 4-0-3 vote not to approve November minutes and to reconsider the previously approved September and October minutes in January.

• **Treasurer's Report:**

MaryKay reported that the Fidelity account was down to \$23,504.30 (though it has since risen). CC5 checking account balance of \$7,235.81 after \$14.99 expenses (Zoom), \$67.62 membership income through PayPal and \$10.72 received from Amazon Smile.

Updates:

• Membership Committee (the Barkins):

3 memberships were received recently. Joan Barkin sent out "Thank You" notes.

Joan keeps copies of all donations, memberships etc.

Between MK and Glenn she gets records of membership donations.

• Pollinator brochure:

Katelyn referenced WBNERR's brochure on ecological landscaping.

Joan Muller noted that there were other partners in the making of this pamphlet so she didn't feel comfortable making substantial changes to it. She thinks the MNWR Friends should design their own pollinator brochure and brand it like the Rabbitat one. However, when it's time to reprint the *Ecological Landscaping* brochure that WBNERR did with other partners, we could consider adding a box with pollinator info since the current one doesn't include specific info on creating a pollinator garden (just that native plants attract pollinators).

Katelyn suggested that we use it as a model for a pollinator brochure we could create.

Nancy liked the idea of a pollinator brochure. She saw some at the F&WS.

Tom Eagle noted that there's lots of pollinator stuff out there.

Joan M suggested that our brochure could mention our gardens and the Rod & Gun Club project.

Emilie indicated that she would work on it.

Nancy suggested that it include photos of kids working in the gardens.

MaryKay noted that she got permission to use the kids photos from the schools.

Joan Muller said she can give us WBNERR's brochures for distribution.

MaryKay noted that for our pollinator grant she did spreadsheets of the plants that each pollinator likes.

Tom Eagle said he can send info to Emilie. He also suggested working with the Tribe on medicinal uses of plants.

Emilie wanted direction on what we specifically want in our brochure.

Mark K suggested that we keep it to local plants.

Katelyn likes the idea of an example garden drawing.

MaryKay asked Tom Eagle where to get butterfly booklets. He suggested she talk to Kelsey.

• Pollinator Gardens:

Katelyn asked if it's too late to do work on our gardens? We could clean up, remove grass. She will work on scheduling something.

MaryKay related a story about over-wintering caterpillars in Joe Pye weed in her personal garden.

- **Newsletter:**

Emilie has finished the previous one and is working on a new one. Snowy Owl, Grey Seal, Red Fox etc. could be candidates for "Creature Feature" in the next newsletter. Maybe Otters?

MaryKay asked when the new one would be published. Emilie is aiming for Spring 2022. Katelyn said we will go with Otters. Also suggested that we also highlight the Rabbitat brochure in a blurb.

Nancy Church left at 5:48.

- **Osprey Nest Camera:**

Glenn would rather talk about it some other time. Amy Brown site didn't work out. He will look at WBNERR and alternate locations.

- **Rabbitat Brochure Printing:**

Made final changes and added logos. We voted last month for using Heritage printing for 3000 copies at \$516.

Katelyn wanted to pick a site in the Refuge to build an example of a proper brush pile for the New England Cottontails. She asked Tom E to help. He suggested a few of them where they'll be seen by visitors. Glenn suggested both ends of Great Hay Road at Great Oak and Red Brook Roads. Joan M suggested the Quashnet trail.

Katelyn will send the Rabbitat brochure to all Cape towns. MaryKay will send them to the land trusts.

- **Prescribed Burns for 2022:**

Tom Eagle - Future staffing: F&WS is hiring a "Visitor Services Manager", so they'll have 3 full-time visitor staff. They still must do a MNWR "public use compatibility determination".

They have had a joint agreement with Acadia National Park on burns. There's very little fire staff in the Northeast. The National Park Service has been the leader.

90 acres were burned in MNWR last year, with 4 days of burning near Red Brook Road.

It has been a problem working with the Park Service, so F&WS has decided to house the New England Fire Zone at the Refuge in Sudbury. Hoping to have 2 permanent and 3 seasonal (starting March 1) fire staff plus trucks and equipment.

F&WS will focus on areas that have active signed burn plans. (The Tribe and Orenda plans need to be rewritten.)

Mark K asked if next year is possible for burns in Falmouth?

Tom E responded yes. MNWR will be a priority. He also noted that they need to be able to expand the burn window beyond March and April. Other agencies are already doing Fall burns etc.

- **Mass. Wildlife Habitat Management Grant:**

Falmouth got a grant for herbicide application on 22 acres of Coonamessett fields to kill off invasives. Also applied for another grant to expand into the forest edge. All work must be done by June. Mass Wildlife came out with "Climate Resiliency" grants that could be used for burns. Falmouth will have to do a new burn plan. Mark K and Tom E discussed burning in the Spring.

- **Partners Meeting:**

Tom Eagle is leaning toward an in-person meeting at WBNERR in January, probably in combination with a ZOOM meeting. He hopes to get back to quarterly meetings. Maybe some could be outside at the Falmouth Rod & Gun Club.

He's planning on scaling the meeting back to the actual partners and the Friends.

- **USF&WS Staffing:**

(Discussed previously.)

- **Other:**

Tom Eagle brought up the possibility of prescribed burns on Mashpee Water District lands. Tom F indicated that the District's Operations Manager is still opposed based on advice from the Commission's consultants.

- **Adjournment:**

On a motion by Glenn, seconded by MaryKay, the Board voted to adjourn at 6:25.