



Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge

MINUTES

August 2, 2022 Online Zoom Meeting

AGENDA:

- 5:00 Introductions (5 minutes)
- 5:05 Approve June & July Minutes
- 5:10 Budget/Treasurer's Report (N/A, postponed until September)
- 5:10 Membership Committee Report
- 5:15 Updates
- Osprey Nest Cam (and WBNERR osprey exhibit)
 - POH Camp
 - Pollinator Gardens – work days
 - Drought and need for water at Red Brook and Great Oak gardens
 - Visitor Center and options for Martin Rd/WBNERR Gatehouse/Rt 28 Parcel
 - Pollinator Brochure
 - Constant Contact renewal
- 5:45 2022 Events
- Estuaries Day Sept 18 (WBNERR) (Save the Date!)
 - Mashpee Oktoberfest Oct 1 (Save the Date!)
 - Walk For the Wild (WFTW) October 8-15, 2022 (planning committee needed)
- 6:00 Other Business (as time allows)
- How to handle requests for Osprey nest repairs?
 - Summer Newsletter – finalize by late August?
 - General Liability and/or Directors & Officers Insurance
 - Other
- 6:15 Adjourn

Meeting called to order at 5:05 pm

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

Others in attendance: Joy Absher (USF&WS), Joan Muller (WBNERR), Drew McManus (Mashpee Conservation)

• FMNWR Meeting Minutes Approvals

The board voted unanimously to approve the June and July meeting minutes.

• **Treasurer's Report** – Computer issues, will hold report until September meeting

• **Membership Committee** (Joan and Neil Barkin)

One new donation from the President of the Friends of Great Falls Tavern, Maryland. Glenn thanked Joan and Neil Barkin for this connection to the non-profit (where they served on the board) and for forwarding their newsletter.

Updates:

Osprey Cam- Glenn-There is an impressive and loyal group of followers, the lens is about 90% clear and can really see what fledgling do. Joan Muller encouraged everyone to visit WBNERR to see the new osprey exhibit. After lots of discussion and planning it came together really quickly.

POH Camp – On July 20th there was a big turnout of USF&WS staff, Friends, volunteers and Wampanoag Tribe staff to work with the camp that led to an amazing transformation of a drainage ditch at the Tribal Center into a pollinator garden. Thanks to MaryKay for the selection and purchase of over 500 plants that everyone helped get into the ground. At the closing ceremony, the kids said it was the best part of the day. Joy said it was her best day so far working for USF&W!

Pollinator Gardens – MaryKay and Glenn have been watering and doing some clean-up work on gardens at Jehu and Red Brook Road assisted by Lucinda Parmenter and Kathy Pratt. Added lots of plants just before the drought. Watering is difficult with having to lug water to the sites.

Drew began a discussion of bringing town water to the site. Andy Marks. Director of Mashpee Water Dept. said it was feasible- costs about \$3000, with DPW doing the work.

Drew will ask Tom Eagle about Refuge kicking in some money. Said that he will also ask for Mashpee Community Preservation funds for this purpose. Their meeting Aug. 11th and threat of future droughts justifies the need for this. Will ask about DPW water truck for now.

Tom F. noted that the Pickerel Cove Garden wasn't suffering as badly, more established and many shade tolerant plants there.

Refuge Visitor Center

Continuing discussion to identify a site and move ahead with plans to create a VC and shop. Glenn stated that Rep. Vieira is on-board to push something through, could use prison work crew at Martin Road site, maybe tap into state grants.

Glenn- Martin Rd site provides only direct trail access, Rt. 28 site only one actually owned by the Refuge. WBNERR gate house with a state-sanctioned swap to dorm space at Martin Road.

Joan Muller- reminded all that this was discussed at the last partners meeting and Tonna-Marie had invited further discussion that had not yet happened. As WBNERR is currently working on their five- year management plan, this project should be included.

Tom F. (history) Friends used to meet in WBNERR Gate House and had an office there. Ed Moses. former Refuge Manager, picked the Rt. 28 site for visibility, Bob Sherman and Mashpee Conservation voted to approve it. Due to state ownership, Martin Road would not be subject to zoning laws (may still raise concerns from neighbors).

MK- Currently have Friends Maps and brochures kept at Martin Road but do not have direct access. **Can we get a key?**

Glenn will send a doodle poll to set up a time for all to tour the 3 sites.

Pollinator Brochure-Almost ready, a few tweaks to native-non-native labels. Everyone take a last look for edits.

Constant Contact- Well received, easy to use, stats available. Glenn motioned to upgrade to annual pre-paid subscription for \$83.88 that renews Aug. 11th. Approved unanimously.

Estuaries Day Event at WBNERR - Sept 18th at WBNERR-Report on planning meeting with Joan M., Glenn, Nancy, Hannaah (WB), and Reverend Nell (Waquoit Congregational Church). osprey theme. Invite outside groups, speaker (Alan Poole) USF&WS boat trips, Concert, games and activities. Glenn in VC with video highlights (or live feed id birds still there) info tables.

Mashpee October Fest- Oct. 1 – will discuss schedule for volunteers at next meeting.

Walk for the Wild – Nation-wide initiative, a 5k walk in Refuges week of Oct. 8 – 15th. We will participate. Nancy and Glenn on committee to develop this event.

Other Business

Discussion around requests for **osprey nest repairs**. The board was concerned about the group's limited resources and manpower and liability for work on nests on private property. Decided to focus on those nests within the Refuge for the future.

Summer Newsletter-Mostly completed by Emilie Brush. Contains articles on osprey cam, Girl Scout trip, Rachael Carson and a POH article from Tom Eagle.

Tom Fudala moved to adjourn at 6:20PM. Unanimous vote to end.