



Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge

APPROVED MINUTES For Online Zoom FMNWR Executive Meeting and 2023 ANNUAL Meeting on February 6, 2024

Executive AGENDA:

February 2024 FMNWR Meeting

General Business (before 5:00 as time allows)

- Approve [DRAFT Minutes for Friends January 2, 2024](#)
- AmeriCorps Alumni Service Project - March 15th
- Earth Day:
 - Mashpee Conservation/AmeriCorps - April 1st pollinator Garden cleanup & planting
 - Coordination with MEC, Mashpee Conservation, other organizations
- Collaboration with USGS: Jason Sorenson to speak at FMNWR upcoming meeting (March?)

Presentation about Trail Improvements (Colton Atkinson)

2023 Annual Meeting

Introductions

Election of Board Members and Officers

Annual Meeting Presentation

- Review 2023 Achievements
- Financial Report (2023 Annual)
- Looking ahead to 2024
- Questions and additional issues

Adjourn

FMNWR Meeting Minutes

- **Meeting called to order at 4:02**
- **Board Members Attending:**
President: Glenn Davis, Treasurer: MaryKay Fox, Clerk: Lucinda Keith,
Historian: F Tom Fudala, and Nancy Church

Others in attendance:

Tom Eagle (USFWS), Colton Atkinson, Wilson Acuna (USFWS)

General Business

FMNWR Meeting Minutes Approvals

- Minutes for January 2, 2024 meeting were approved unanimously
- AmeriCorps Alumni Service Project - March 15th
 - We did not have a project ready to seek assistance so AmeriCorps team will be working with another organization
- Earth Day: Mashpee Conservation/AmeriCorps - April 1st pollinator Garden cleanup & planting
 - **Dan Kent will provide details for April 1st**
- Coordination with MEC, Mashpee Conservation, other organizations
 - **Tom Fudala will provide more information after the MEC meeting that he will attend on Thursday**
- 2024 Honor the Earth Fair April 20th 11am - 4pm
 - Jason Steiding and Paula Peters sent email
 - **Glenn will contact to say we would like to participate**
 - Find out more information and details
 - Share with Wilson to possibly participate in
- Collaboration with USGS: Jason Sorenson to speak at FMNWR upcoming meeting (March?)
 - Lucinda shared information from meeting with Jason Sorenson
 - Projects with neurodiverse students at Falmouth and Mashpee HS.
 - Sort photos of bird activity at Quashnet and Mashpee River to collect data about Blue Heron interactions and resolve issue with their numerous deaths
 - Sort photos of water flow to see how to improve
 - He may attend our March meeting to discuss projects
 - Possible projects with Friends and students
 - Invasive removal at Mashpee River fish ladder and plant native plants with Tribal input
 - Clean up river
- Presentation about Trail Improvements (Colton Atkinson)

- Colton shared his presentation "National wildlife Refuge Trail Improvement Proposal"
 - Porous trail (pavers) same used at Heritage Park
 - Connecting trails, communities
 - Access for bikes, wheelchairs, strollers, etc
 - Timeline
 - Approval from from CPC (April)
 - Present to town (November)
 - Construction (2025)
 - Suggestions:
 - Discuss with Public Works supervisor before construction for future maintenance of these trails
 - Discuss with all 8 Partners and land owners for their feedback and possible restrictions

2023 ANNUAL MEETING

Minutes for 2023 Annual Meeting

- **Meeting called to order at 5:02pm**
- **Board Members Attending:**
 President: Glenn Davis, Treasurer: MaryKay Fox, Clerk: Lucinda Keith, Historian: F Tom Fudala, and Nancy Church
- **Others in attendance:**
 Tom Eagle (USFWS), Colton Atkinson, Wilson Acuna,(USFWS), Joan Muller (WBNERR), Grace Vachon (AmeriCorp), Mark Kasprzyk (Falmouth Conservation), Grace Bottitta-Williamson (USFWS), Ryan Clark (WBNERR), Joan Muller (WBNERR), Arden Russell, Stephanie Koch, Diana Ruiz, Kenneth Burnes, Tania Lewandowski, Dan Kent (Mashpee Conservation), and A.D. Colburn (Falmouth Rod and Gun Club)
- Remembrance of Board Member Joan Barkin
- Glenn shared Annual Meeting presentation
 - Introduction to the Refuge
 - Mashpee Wildlife Refuge established in 1995
 - Second largest open, accessible refuge (6,000 acres)
 - 9 Partners
 - Diverse wildlife, plants
 - Friends provide support to all Partners and other organizations
 - Reviewed 2023 Accomplishments
 - Earth Day Month

- Pickerel Cove - planted trees with Mashpee Conservation and Senior AmeriCorp
 - Falmouth Rod & Gun Club - Boys and Girls Scout Troop planting native pollinator plants
- Osprey Cam
 - Season 3
 - Thanks to Falmouth Osprey Project for quick replacement of a new platform
- POH Camp "Preserve our Homeland" Camp
- Visitor Center
 - Site 966 Falmouth Road
 - Endorsement by Mashpee Conservation and Mashpee SelectBoard
 - Working with Town Manager
 - Looking into site design and building options
- Rabbitat
 - Eagle Scout Senior Project
 - 2 Demonstration structures each at Red Brook Road and Falmouth Rod & Gun Club (one near trails and one within woods)
 - Signage going in with help of USFWS
 - Brochures explain how to construct
 - Brochures at trailheads, Town Hall, and at rabbitat signage/and site
- Walk for the Wild
 - 5 K challenge
 - Partnered with Mashpee Conservation, Mashpee Recreation and Naukabout Brewery
 - Next meeting Feb 23rd, 11am in South Cape Meeting Room at Mashpee Town Hall
 - Looking forward to 2024
- Other activities
 - Mashpee Senior Center, "Attracting & Raising Monarch Butterflies" July 27th, 10:30am MaryKay presented (donation of \$50.00)
 - Trustees of Reservations: planted 39 pollinator plants
 - Oktoberfest
- Financial Report (MaryKay)
 - Shared 3 graphs summarizing 2023 financials
 - Monthly income and Monthly Expense graph
 - Comparing PayPal and Check Donations graph: almost equal

- Monthly summaries from each investment sources, total net worth
 - Very conservative with investments
 - Grant from USFWS Retirees Association
 - Thank you to Kenneth Burnes (Treasurer, initiated new investments in 2014 that have improved income)
 - Most donations are received after Membership Letters are sent (February - March)
 - Began using Venmo for events, minimally used as payments, mostly cash
 - Endowment fund (started in 2000) has restrictions to withdrawing 4% per year, utilized twice over last 24 years
- Looking Forward to 2024:
 - Earth Day (Dan Kent) April 1st with AmeriCorps
 - April 13th Falmouth Rod & Gun Club planting with the Boy and Girl Scout troop
 - Native Land Conservancy April 20th at Tribal Headquarters
 - USGS projects
 - Continued progress with Visitor Center
 - AmeriCorp projects
 - Walk For The Wild: planning meeting this month
- Partners or Members phone or email us about upcoming projects
- Members welcome to attend monthly board meetings on first Tuesday of each month at 5:00pm
- Partners please let us know projects that Friends can collaborate

Questions and Additional Issues:

- Ryan Clark: The Osprey pole was checked and looks good for this year and the platform was replaced last year.
- Mark Kasprzyk: Thank you to Friends for their work, wondered how many volunteers we have, and will contact us about future projects
- Tom Eagle: Kudos to Friends, great projects done
- Grace Bottitta-Williamson: look into other uses for the trailer located at WBNERR, how to move, and possible new locations
- MaryKay: excited about Visitor Center, place for greenhouses and expanding our pollinator initiative, highlight Refuge Partners, place for club scouts, native garden designs, etc.

Elections of Officers:

- Unanimous vote to reinstate for 1 year term
 - Glenn Davis (President), MaryKay Fox (Treasurer), Lucinda Keith (Clerk).
- Unanimous vote to reinstate the Board:

- Glenn Davis, MaryKay Fox, Lucinda Keith, F Tom Fudala, Nancy Church, Neil Barkin and Katelyn Cadoret
- Unanimous vote New Board Member: Tania Lewandowski.....WELCOME!
- Hope Joan Avant can work on sub-committees for Visitor Center and attend zoom meetings
- Reminder that Members are welcome to join the Board and Partners to attend meetings on a regular basis.

Meeting Adjourned:

- Unanimous vote to adjourn at 6:30pm