



Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge

APPROVED MINUTES For Online Zoom Meeting March 5, 2024

AGENDA:

- 5:00 Introductions
- 5:05 Presentation by Jason Sorenson of USGS on potential FMNWR collaboration with USGS on projects (*time TBD depending on when Jason joins meeting*)
- 5:20 Updates
- Approve minutes from [February 6th Monthly and 2023 Annual Meeting](#)
 - Membership report
 - Visitor Center
 - WFTW update
 - Earth Day Activities
 - April 1st - Mashpee Conservation/AmeriCorps pollinator Garden cleanup & planting
 - April 20th 10am-2pm "Honor the Earth Fair" sponsored by the Native Land Conservancy at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Government Center
 - April 20th 10am-2pm - 23rd Annual Cape Cod Canal Clean-Up (AmeriCorps) - at the Herring Run Recreation Area in Bourne
 - April or May? - Falmouth Rod & Gun Club Spring pollinator field planting with Boy and Girl Scout Troops
 - Coordination with MEC, Mashpee Conservation, other organizations
- 5:45 Other Business
- DMF Proposal to Adjust Commercial Horseshoe Crab Limits (MK)
 - USFWS Fundraising Agreement
 - Order Friends Merchandise (t-shirts, etc.)
- 6:00 Adjourn

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order 5:07 pm

Board Members Attending:

President: Glenn Davis, Treasurer: MaryKay Fox, Clerk: Lucinda Keith, Historian: F Thomas Fudala, Neil Barkin, Nancy Church

Others in attendance:

Dan Kent (Mashpee Conservation), Ryan Clark (WBNERR), Grace Vachon (AmeriCorps), Mark Kasprzyk (Falmouth Conservation), Tom Eagle (USFWS), Meagan Eagle (USGS) and Wilson Acuna (USFWS)

Updates:

- **FMNWR Meeting Minutes Approvals**
 - Minutes for February 6th Monthly and 2023 Annual Meeting were approved unanimously.
- **Membership Committee**
 - Since membership letters were sent there were 26 donations (new and renewal) for a total of \$1775.
- **Visitor Center**
 - Not much to report, awaiting meeting with Town Manager
 - He is busy with upcoming Town Meeting
 - Hoping to discuss ownership or leasing
 - Visited Upper Cape Tech
 - They can build from spec on site
- **USFWS Fundraising Agreement**
 - Tom Eagle spoke about fact that many new people at USFWS do not understand that Mashpee has Partners and how we work together
 - We need to change the USFWS language to accommodate Partners and Visitor Center off of Refuge land
 - **TASK TO COMPLETE**
 - Tom E would like Friends to review the template he shared and make edits if needed
 - Return to him before April meeting
- **WFTW (Walk For The Wild)**
 - October 13th at Naukabout
 - Pete verified the date and same planning as the last time
 - Tom F proposed the route and shared at WFTW planning meeting
 - Grace V explained using QR code and self guided tour
 - **TASK TO COMPLETE**
 - Grace V will send dates she can walk the route
 - Tom F cannot walk March 12-18 and April 6-10
 - Send date of walk to Tom E and Wilson

- Dan will talk with Boy Scouts about possibly helping with clearing the route
- Mark K will look into way to partner with Falmouth
- Grace V and Lucinda meet to work on Self Guiding Tour
- Make video of Wampanoag Elder
 - Make a loop of video to have at Naukabout
- Original date for next WFTW Planning Meeting April 23
- May need to talk to Quashnet Valley CC about having route go through part of their property to pass by Atlantic White Cedar Swamp.

- Think about fundraiser at another time at Falmouth restaurants

Earth Day Activities

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April 1st - Mashpee Conservation/AmeriCorps pollinator Garden cleanup & Planting

- Site visit not yet set up
- Planned to be at Jehu and Pickerel pollinator gardens
- Open to our members
- **TASK TO COMPLETE**
 - Dan K will let us know about site visit and definite times for morning and afternoon
 - Glenn will send an email to our members to volunteer for upcoming events

April 20th 10am-2pm "Honor the Earth Fair" sponsored by the Native Land Conservancy at the Mashpee at the Wampanoag Tribal Center

- We will have a Friends table
- Time is 11am-4pm for the public to attend
- **TASK TO COMPLETE**
 - We will want 2-3 volunteers (2 shifts?)
 - Volunteer times may differ to set up prior to the eventwill need clarification

- April 20th 10am-2pm - 23rd Annual Cape Cod Canal Clean-Up (AmeriCorps) at the Herring Run Recreation Area in Bourne

- AmeriCorp teaming with Army Corp Engineers
- 23rd year
- Both sides of the canal 10-2
- **TASK TO COMPLETE**
 - Grace V will send online link to register (only online registration)

April or May? - Falmouth Rod & Gun Club Spring pollinator field planting with Boy and Girl Scout Troops

- Waiting on a date and times
- **TASK TO COMPLETE**
 - **MaryKay will email for dates and times**
- Coordination with MEC, Mashpee Conservation, other organizations
 - **TASK TO COMPLETE**
 - **Glenn will email Arden to find out ways to share information back and forth about events**

Other Business

- DMF Proposal to Adjust Commercial Horseshoe Crab Limits (MK)
 - We had a unanimous vote for MaryKay to send the letter that she wrote
- USFWS Fundraising Agreement
 - Discussed earlier in meeting
- Order Friends Merchandise (t-shirts, etc.)
 - We are almost out of Friends merchandise
 - Vista Prints was used in past
 - **TASK TO COMPLETE**
 - **MaryKay will provide list of merchandise, prices for us to determine what we will reorder**

USGS

- Meaghan Eagle reported on different projects that USGS is working on
 - POH involvement
 - Mapping groups
 - Identify Wampanoag sites
 - **Meagan will send links to us with all of the projects**
- Jason Sorenson was not able to attend
 - Lucinda reported on projects that he and Nimish are doing in conjunction with the Wampanoag Tribe, neurodiverse students and the Mashpee Conservation to improve the herring ladder at Mashpee River so osprey and blue heron are not in danger
- Tom F asked, "*What happened to Mashpee Conservation's plan to plant cedar trees in a bog at Santuit Pond Preserve?*" on Earth Day weekend.
- Met Lynne Barbee and she said she would support our group
 - **Include Lynne in invitation to future meetings**

- Open House at Monomoy Visitor Center Saturday March 9th from 10 -2

Unanimous vote to adjourn at 6:32