

Friends of the Waquoit Bay Reserve Fall Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 15, 2019
6:30PM – 8:00PM

In Attendance: Nate Higbie, President, Richard Dotson, Board Member, Linda Karmen, Treasurer, Betsy Young, Asst. Treasurer, Jan Smith-Rushton, Roberta Morris, Tonna-Marie Rogers, Laurie Tompkins, Joan Muller, Kathy Lanson, Carol and Joe Finn

Agenda Items

Welcome & Overview – Nate Higbie

Brief overview of Reserve structure – Laurie Tompkins

Update on summer events

1. FriendRaiser was a success 38 new members. It's a good idea to keep this going with new events going forward. This was a good start, perhaps more publicity and outreach.

Ideas presented:

- Have a presence at events at the Reserve
- Hand out flyer, kiosk card or information about Friends at interpretive family programs
- Have a presence at the science school end of the week event
- How do we reach more neighbors – making the connection with water quality and way of life
- Farmer's markets
- Determine levels of membership
- More articles in local newspapers
- Paid advertising of events if necessary
- Teaser Board on Route 28 – catchy phrases

Action Item: Create a survey for Friends to determine when and how often they would like to meet. What are some of the events they would like to attend; fundraising ideas moving forward.
(Linda, Tonna-Marie and Laurie)

New Sign out front of Reserve – Board willing to finance.

2. Fundraiser/Plein Air Art Silent Auction raised approx. \$2,500.
Merchandise needs replenishing

Action Item: Need to determine next fundraiser.

3. Volunteer Needs

Science School Admin and Board Liaison position

Board secretary

Gardening (Linda knows Master Gardener (Warren Collins) willing to assess and create plan)

Action Items:

Friends Board willing to contribute funds to beatification plan surrounding visitor center and gardens. Laurie to connect with Linda to set meeting with Warren, EDU dept. and Facilities supervisor to move this forward).

Create job descriptions and handout for each of the needs to keep them readily available and easier to share. (Laurie)

2020 New Member Event Ideas: invite all members and use as a recruitment tool to bring in new members.

Breakfast on the Bluff – early summer (possible June 2020?)

4. NERRS Annual Meeting – Nate attending the Friends track in November. He will write a summary of the meeting for future newsletter/article. For more information on other Reserve sites visit <https://coast.noaa.gov/nerrs/>

NERRA – National Estuarine Research Reserve Association – the friends group that supports all Reserves. <https://www.nerra.org/>

5. Signage

- The Friends would be willing to pay for new event sign at entrance.
- Would like to see signage acknowledging their contribution to the Wetu and the Water Station
- Use the beautification projects to promote fundraising.

6. Next Member Meeting to coincide with Breakfast on the Bluff – early June.