



2019-20: STEADY AS SHE GOES

**MAINTENANCE DEFERRED; FEDERAL PERMIT EXTENDED;
KEEPING A CLOSE EYE ON SPENDING; SUMMER INTERN SWAP**

2020 ANNUAL MEETING – MARK YOUR CALENDER!

The Friends' 2020 Annual Meeting will be held at 10 am on Saturday, July 11. It will either be held outdoors with safe, social distancing or virtually using Zoom – details will be circulated in early July. We'll be reviewing progress and laying out our plans for the upcoming year. Join with us as we learn from past experiences and plan for the future. Your inputs and feedback will again be welcomed.

ELLISVILLE INLET MAINTENANCE DEFERRED

After careful consideration the board of directors made the decision in February not to perform maintenance of the Ellisville Marsh inlet in 2020. The inlet was not seriously compromised although some touch-up work would have been helpful. The decision also took into account the risk that one or both of the two authorizing permits scheduled to expire in 2020 might not be renewed (see next paragraph). Despite lack of maintenance in March, the inlet has remained open and tidal flows in and out of the marsh are currently unimpaired.



Aerial view of Ellisville Marsh and inlet taken April 19, 2020.
Photo courtesy of Mike Brennan.

CORP OF ENGINEERS PERMIT EXTENDED

On April 1, 2020, the Massachusetts General Permit issued by the US Army Corps of Engineers for the Ellisville Inlet Maintenance Project was reauthorized. The new permit expiration date is April 2023. We owe a debt of gratitude to Mark Manganello of LEC Environmental, whose efforts on our behalf resulted in the timely accomplishment of this positive result. This is our second federal permit reauthorization. Our permit from the Plymouth Conservation Commission is set to expire in September. We have initiated a conversation with Commission staff about permit renewal.

FINANCIAL UPDATE–FURTHER TIGHTENING

Friends' members understand from past communications or firsthand knowledge that we are a financially conservative organization. We handled incorporation ourselves. We do not spend money on things we can figure out how to do ourselves. We did not hire an outside consultant for several of our permit renewals, choosing instead to undertake them ourselves despite the burden. Volunteer work saves thousands of dollars every year. Life under COVID-19 is no different. However, our board takes very seriously the uncertainty the pandemic creates for our future revenue stream. Our current financial condition is stable and we are redoubling our efforts to minimize costs. Our treasurer Frank Doyle will provide an overview at the annual meeting on July 11.

THREATENED SHOREBIRDS NESTING – UNUSUALLY STRONG START TO THE SEASON

COVID-19 or not, we're off to a great start to our 2020 shorebirds nesting season on Ellisville Beach. Three pairs of Piping Plovers quickly set down nests, one of which turned out to be a rare six-egger (nests usually hold three or four eggs). And we have already begun finding Least Tern nests. This success reflects good cooperation from beach users, whose support is greatly appreciated. We've appreciated everyone's help in educating dog walkers and observing the fenced nesting areas.

UPDATE ON OUR SUMMER ASSISTANT

As you know, our 2019 summer environmental assistant Chris Foley suffered a grievous skiing injury this winter. He had surgery to repair his knee the week of June 8. His rehab will preclude him from resuming his role this summer. Fortunately for us, it turned out sister Abby is available and will return to conduct this summer's data collection. This is akin to finding out that Roger Clemens is injured and can't pitch, then learning that Pedro Martinez is in town and happy to fill in. Best wishes from all of us to Chris for a speedy recovery. And welcome back, Abby!

Renew Your Membership for the 1920-21 Year that Begins July 1.