



NHANRS

New Hampshire Association of Natural Resource Scientists

Board of Directors

MEETING MINUTES

Regular Meeting – February 20, 2024

Via Zoom

Call to Order 4:03 PM:

Present: President: Collis Adams (CA); Vice President: Deidra Benjamin (DB); Secretary: Noah Buckner (NB); Treasurer: Spencer Tate (ST); Membership Chair: Sarah Large (SL); Legislative Chair: Kimberly Peace (KP); Education Chair: Randall Shuey (RS); Administrative Assistant: Brian Matott (BM)

Guest: Luke Powell (LP)

Absent: Communications Chair: Elizabeth Olliver (EO)

Approval of Minutes:

SL requested that an addition be made to the end of the Annual Conference section, giving Nicole Davis from Hoyle Tanner credit for creating the Conference Evaluation online survey. ST made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. DB seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

SL inquired about the Business Meeting minutes and BM stated that the Board should review and approve the minutes prior to them being submitted to the Membership for approval at the Summer Meeting.

Financial Report – Treasurer:

ST and DB have planned to meet at Citizens Bank the last week of February to have signature cards revised. LP reported that there was over \$16,000 in income received, approximately \$11,000 for the Annual Conference and \$5,400 in membership dues. We also received a late payment of \$1,155 from NHDES for the Stream Crossing Workshop held back in July.

Committee Reports:

Membership:

SL reported that the current 2024 membership count is 108. SL noted that we are at 99% of our membership income goal of \$13,000 in the 2024 budget. SL drafted a membership renewal letter to be sent via hard copy to a list of 55 lapsed NHANRS members. BM has sent the letters out to those on that list. SL made the motion to approve the Active – Regular membership application from Nyssa Seekamp. ST seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Communications:

Legislative:

KP stated that there are 8 or 9 bills that the Legislative Committee is actively following. KP noted that the bill of biggest concern is the Definition of Wetlands Bill. KP stated that the position that the Legislative Committee is following is that there are better ways to achieve the goal of the bill other than changing the definition of a Wetland. KP and SL attended the quarterly OPLC meeting and they noted a lack of consistency in the staff operating these meetings. DB inquired about the legislation regarding reciprocity. KP stated that this is being followed as recommendations are being considered, although this does not impact CWS as there is no equivalent outside of NH.

Education:

RS stated that there are no immediate workshops scheduled, as plans for the Turtle Crossing Workshop with NHDES and Fish & Game have stalled. RS added that there will be a Quarterly Meeting in May at the Common Man and the Summer Meeting will again be held at Bear Brook State Park. The Summer Meeting will change themes from Wildlife to Wetlands, as is planned to be on Functions & Values.

CA opened the discussion on how to approach filling the Education Committee Chair position. RS noted that the duties of the position were to run the monthly meetings and to help organize workshops and meetings with the other members of the Committee. BM suggested sending out a communication broadcasting our need to fill this position. BM inquired about the possibility of providing some sort of incentive to create interest in volunteering. DB stated that an idea that had been discussed in the past was to offer free attendance to one or more meetings to Board members. RS prompted anyone that might have a topic for a workshop to submit it for consideration.

Administrative Assistant Report:**Administrative Assistant Personnel Review**

CA opened a discussion regarding BM's review, with the Board expressing appreciation for his efforts. CA made the motion to award BM a raise of 10 percent. RS seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:**2024 Annual Conference**

KP inquired about Conference Evaluations and BM stated that none have been received. SL suggested having the PowerPoint presentations from the Conference be available. BM stated that copies of only a few presentations were acquired. BM will contact the other presenters about obtaining their presentation files. RS suggested the possibility of having fewer speakers/topics so the day does not appear quite so hectic.

New Business:

For the Good of the Association:

Adjournment:

ST made the motion to adjourn. SL seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM

Minutes submitted by: Brian Matott