

**Board of Directors Meeting 2/12/2020, 5:30-8:00 PM**

**Field Naturalist & Ecological Planning Program Alumni Association**  
**Jeffords Hall 227, UVM, Burlington**

**In Attendance: Sean Beckett, Hannah Phillips, Lauren Sopher, Meredith Naughton, Jeffrey Hughes, Deane Wang, Tate Bushell**

**1. Field Notes Update (Tate; 20 min)**

Theme picked by Field Notes committee: "Disturbance." Sonia DeYoung created a prompt requesting alumni to contribute articles. 7-8 people have submitted articles. **Hannah** will share SD's prompt to FNEPAA folder.

Discussed what FNEPAA will contribute:

- Alumni Map: North America map of alumni (with international alumni at fringe).
  - **Lauren** will draw map. **Sean** will help prepare the data.
- $\frac{1}{8}$  page infographic of FNEPAA by the numbers and a Thank You **Sean** can provide.
- Announcement about ListServ and Job Board
- Request from Allaire Diamond: Commentary from female FNs on fieldwork.
- Call for Proposals will be included, as usual.
- FNEPAA letter conveying the spirit of SD's prompt: from disturbance comes renewal. **Hannah** will draft this?

**2. Fundraising - 20 min**

**"Small Nut" Fundraising and Membership Update (Sean; 10 min)**

72 FNEPAA members (lapsed and current)

44 current FNEPAA members

39 renewed since October and January membership appeal. 10 of those are new alumni that were not members 2017-2019.

Have raised \$575 in membership dues since January.

Have raised an additional \$752 in donations and higher membership level subscriptions from 16 people.

**Big Nut - Next Steps (Hannah; 10 min)**

HP discussed with Dave Barrington and Cathy Paris the suggestion to have an FNEPAA representative join planning team meetings. Requested quarterly, half-day fundraising meetings starting ASAP, with the deadline of major asks beginning in 1 year. Will invite experts to these meetings to help achieve fundraising goals. **Hannah** will set meetings, formalize committee (5-6 people), create framework for this.

Another alum would ideally sit on committee. HP commented that local development experts will have a conflict of interest in divulging funding sources, so may be a

challenge to find someone. **Hannah** will approach Lydia Menendez to consider joining committee.

JH met with UVM Foundation. Foundation is fine with FNEPAA/committee pursuing donors on our own schedule/terms, as long as UVM Foundation makes the final “ask” and receives the \$. Foundation determined that efforts ought to be focused externally, as their research determined that there isn’t sufficient capacity from within FNEP Alumni pool to fund an endowed director position.

Board reinforced that complete participation and approval from planning team is necessary for fundraising committee to progress.

### 3. Symposium Planning (1 hour)

Theme: “Disturbance,” especially how regeneration follows disturbance.

- Disturbance as seen over geological time.
- Change in land ownership as old landowners transfer their properties.
- Disrupting/disturbing the status quo, and how that catalyzes creativity.
- How personal disturbances relate to professional disturbance (i.e. having children, moving, loss, etc.)
- How careful communication can be used to cause disruption of beliefs in others and ourselves

Structure: See HP’s symposium schedule in Drive.

- Saturday evening “nuggets” session, ideally with Jeff or Deane presenting. Preference also goes to Blue Herons, who didn’t get to create nuggets.
- Saturday morning “World Cafe” activity
  - Need 4 prompt questions or scenarios for people to respond to: e.g.:
    - Personal regeneration and Group regeneration in the face of disturbance (how to keep your personal regenerative process going? How do you maintain positivity and professional work)
    - What do you do in situation x or scenario y?
    - **Sean** will collect prompts and scenarios from board, then listserv.

Speakers Saturday Afternoon to serve as an orientation to the area

Sunday morning “wandering walks.” Unstructured morning field walks to allow for organic networking and naturalizing.

Call for Presenters and Field Walk Leaders:

Primary selections in bold: David Publicover, Susan Hindinger, Northern Woodlands, **Stephen Wright**, Upper Saco Land Trust (William Abbott), **Tony D’Amato**, Jesse Mohr, Abby Hood, Doug Morin, Kristin Brown, **Bob Zaino**. Hope that each of these people give a presentation to complement field walks.

Rates:

See HP's pricing sheet. Board agreed on the proposed pricing, which includes 50% coverage for current students (to be matched by PBio), and some financial assistance for alumni as-needed.

Outside audiences:

Agreed that outside audiences would be fine, but not to compromise the flavor of our FNEP symposium to accommodate.

Volunteer Roles:

Several volunteer roles needed, and can be solicited in registration form, too.

Current students will hopefully be able to tackle many of them.

- Room coordinator
- Registration/Welcome
- Setup/Breakdown
- Rideshare Coordinator
- Van Drivers

Announcement Email to include:

- Time, Location, Date, Theme and theme description, Schedule
- Solicit walk/talk contributors
- Link to registration form (which will include dietary rx and volunteer role selection
- **Sean** will create registration platform and send email; **Lauren** will draft the email.

#### **4. Current Student Updates and Planning Team Update (20 min)**

Current Student Updates and Mentoring Program update tabled.

JH updated board on cross-college proposal progress and status of securing a portion of Walter's salary for FNEP directorship. PBio faculty is supportive of FN program's continuity, and the continuity of the resources dedicated to the FN program.

#### **5. Thank You Cards**

Board created notes for everyone who has donated beyond \$25 membership between June 2019 and the date of this meeting.

#### **6. Next Meeting Date**

TBD. Hannah will create poll.

**Items for next time:**

Ratify Minutes

More TY cards

Student/mentorship update

Set next meeting