

FNEPAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING April 11 2024

Subject:	Quarterly Meeting	Date:	4/11/2024
Facilitator:	Sean/Carolyn	Time:	6:30 - 8:00 pm
Note Taker:	Sean	Location:	The Internet
Attendees:	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3932902841		
Present:	Grace, Dave, Carolyn, Sean		

Agenda & Notes

No.	Item	Time
	Updates and Check-ins	7:00
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alumni Networks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FN Major Giving Campaign Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The campaign has a \$50k seed gift from an anonymous donor, and are honing in on an application with the RK Melon foundation, which launched the program 40 years ago. The UVM Foundation has been really helpful so far, and are doing substantive work to advance our goals, including designing program marketing materials for donor meetings. ■ Discussed ideas for potential alumni statistics useful for donor prospecting: # of students taught, # of acres conserved, \$ raised for conservation, # acres restored. Stories, e.g. Grace/Bob/Andy review every Act 250 permit, which has yielded unique conservation gains. ○ Virtual Naturalist meetings recap - Grace <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The two gatherings were very successful and appreciated. Opportunity for some older alumni to reconnect. Definitely worth doing again in stick seasons. ● Budget Update - Sean <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Total in accounts: \$8117</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ \$4497 in Porky Fund (\$1500 matching donation by anonymous alumni donors) ■ \$3594 in General fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● (\$2200 in membership contributions from matching challenge) ■ We will move \$1000 from the General Fund to Porky Fund soon to satisfy our annual commitment to contribute to this fund. ● Reviewing and awarding Porky Fund grants! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Student Requests ○ Process agreements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ prioritize first-year student requests. ■ Remaining funds can go to second-year student requests. ■ Requests involving equipment that can benefit the program over the long-term will be prioritized over one-off expenses. ■ Requests for car travel reimbursement will be considered based on gas costs, not based on federal mileage rate (i.e. \$275 vs 	7:15

	<p>\$1200). This is a precedent we've already set, and we can't afford to reimburse at the federal mileage rate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Awards are on a reimbursement basis contingent upon receipts, unless the student is unable to pay up front. ○ Funding decisions ■ Agreed to fund up to \$2000 in alumni gifts this year because of the large increase in the Porky Fund balance this year and our lower general expenses due to not doing an expensive conference. Also agreed to this increased gift amount because of the significant loss of UVM funding to current first-year students. ■ Total Awards (\$1,725): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lucy Gross \$475 for SPOT, subscription, and Bad Elf Pro unit. Contingent upon Lucy finding these items, arranging a long-term storage/care plan, and taking responsibility for starting/canceling the device subscription. ● Steve Root \$500 for Lodging for project. The FN Program is reducing his summer stipend to pay NPS for lodging. Board felt that project lodging should not be the responsibility of students. ● Veronica Manger \$279 for mileage reimbursement for project season. ● Will Durkin \$271 mileage reimbursement for project season. ● Lee Toomey \$200 for conference fee reimbursement. ■ TBD: \$275 reserved for additional project requests that come in this spring/summer. Not to exceed \$2000 of total gifts in 2024. ● Current Student Update - Dave <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Special Topics workshops - update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Students had a recent bryophyte workshop with Dorothy Allard. ■ Students arranging a NEPA/policy workshop with Autumn Foushee, which alumni will be invited to. ○ Funding and Lodging concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ First-year students are receiving significantly <i>less</i> funding in support of their graduate education than second-year students. PBio/UVM is no longer offering tuition remittance for TAships. PBio/UVM is paying FNs half the stipend that it gives PhD students for the same TAship. The total TAships available to current students has declined. Students are needing to find part-time work outside the university to sustain their tenure in the FN program. There is excitement about the 4-year major giving campaign, yet concern that the lack of funding in the interim years is jeopardizing the quality and reputation of the program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students requested that FNEPAA focus on two major areas of impact, which will be discussed at the next board meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reliable housing for FNs through the alumni network connections, which was successful this year. ○ Coordinating part-time (10 hr/wk) work opportunities with local organizations that can partly replace both the financial and experiential loss of disappearing TAships. 	
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	Adjourn	8:07

Action Items				
No.	Action Item(s)	Owner	Target Date	Status
	Tap a current student rep from Cohort AN to be next board representative.	Dave		
	Announce awards to student applicants	Carolyn		
	Announce awards to Porky Fund grantors	Sean		
	Get details re: Autumn Foushee virtual session for Sean to send to Alumni	Dave		
	Symposium Announcement / Invitation	Sean		
	Move \$1000 to Porky Fund from General Fund	Sean		