

The New England Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology
Minutes for the meeting on 9 February 2004
Held at the Murrow Room, The Fletcher School, Tufts University
Medford, Massachusetts.

PRESENT: Steven Bentley, Robert Buchsbaum, Gib Chase, Charles Chester, Peter Clark, Lisa Delissio, David DesRochers, Julie Ellis, Melinda Gammon, Becky Harris, Ed Koenig, David Lowe, Caleb McLennen, Lelia Orrell Elliston, Michael Reed, Renée Reynolds, Marsha Salett, Mike Schindlinger, Eve Schluter, Rob Stevenson.

Introductions

The meeting began with each participant introducing him or herself.

Time date

A time and date for the next Board meeting was set for May 17.

Board positions

Lisa Delissio and Lelia Orrell Elliston both reported on their decisions to step down from their positions as President and Secretary, respectively. One nominee for each of these positions had been identified: Mike Schindlinger for President and Melinda Gammon as Secretary. A unanimous vote was taken, voting in both the nominees. Their positions became official as of the end of this meeting.

Media representative

There was a short discussion of the need for a media representative.

Evidence of name change

Lelia is working on finding out about the official status of the name change, and should hear soon.

Maintaining nonprofit status

There was some question as to what was necessary in order to maintain our nonprofit status. Charlie will look into this.

CFO's report

Becky Harris reported that we have about \$1000 in the bank. The Annual Report cost \$770.

Membership report

Steven Bentley has gone through membership lists, finding out the overall status of NESCB membership. We currently have 9 students and 26 professional people signed up as paid members. This means that we are losing members. Steven had sorted through and filled in 456 names and addresses of SCB members [?] around New England.

Michael Reed said he had a database of 200 undergraduate students who would be a good target audience for NESCB membership recruitment. He also suggested that we look to New England Association of Environmental Professionals. Caleb McClennen

stated that he environmental graduate student list, and Eve Schluter said she had a few other lists. Lisa Delissio suggested that we should have more social events to improve membership.

Website

Lelia reported that the website is going well. What makes the website go well is *Conservation Perspectives*, which receives many hits on the Internet. She noted that the page that gets the most hits is Jen Forman's article on invasive species (the 2nd most visited page is the jobs page). Lelia said she could use some help on setting up webpages.

Conservation Perspectives

Marsha Salett described *Conservation Perspectives* as not a peer reviewed journal, but an online journal that reaches interested lay people as well as professionals. It is supposed to come out three times a year, although sometimes there is only sufficient material for two issues.

Marsha noted that it is difficult to get input from out of state—and even difficult to get input from western MA. She added that all submitters have been directly solicited; there have been no unsolicited manuscripts submitted. Marsha and Charlie will work on writing up a requirement that Board members solicit/write an article per year.

Marsha asked people at the meeting to submit articles, and pointed out that she is a professional editor and will edit to make you look good.

There was a discussion of the possibility of an undergraduate writing contest, and Michael Reed suggested running a photo contest. Marsha said she is always looking for images, and Rob offered to do some digitizing and organizing (noting that the greatest problem with digital photos is the need for metadata).

Events update

Lisa noted that NESCB has held a Conservation Biology Career Event for the past two years at Salem State, and may do so again this year.

Kamal Bawa would like us to cosponsor a one-day event at UMASS, perhaps on marine conservation. There was some discussion of this; Charlie will follow up on contacting Kamal.

Charlie gave an update on the Fall symposium on the Internet and Conservation. He noted that the lack of participation in the event was a great frustration, one that needs to be avoided at all costs in the future. He suggested that future events should be done in conjunction with other organizations so as to ensure participation. For example, he has contacted the New England Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists about potentially cosponsoring their fall conference.

Becky Harris noted that NESCB will be holding a session at the NY meeting of the SCB. We are still investigating what exactly we will be doing in this session.

New Initiatives

Conservation connections. Lisa Delissio described the history of the idea of creating a web-based tool to bring conservation biologists together. Lelia stated that he would like to have some help on this; Michael said he has set up webboards before, and Steven volunteered to be involved.

Sister chapters. SCB is encouraging its Chapters to adopt international “sister chapters.” Lisa suggested the possibility of NESCB setting up a sister chapter with one in Japan

Annual report

The Annual Report will be sent out soon.

The minutes were taken by Charles C. Chester, Vice President, NESCB.