

The New England Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology
Minutes for the General Meeting held on June 9, 2004, at 6:30PM
Walter Hall, Brown University, Providence, RI
Taken by Melinda Gammon, Secretary

Introductions

Present: Michael Schindlinger, Charlie Chester, Gib Chase, Caitlin Mullen Crain, Julie Ellis (host of meeting), Eric von Wettberg, Kelly Gravuer, Melissa Lage, Steven Bentley.

Conferences:

There was a mention of the SCB meeting in NYC in late August. Charlie discussed importance of attending the meeting. He also mentioned our chapter luncheon there, and the opportunity to discuss our conference on New England invasive species, and attract interest. It was mentioned that Peter Alden (field guide and back yard biology guru movement) agreed to come to the luncheon. He is about to release a local invasive species book, which he could promote at our table. The plan is to bring posters/fliers for our conference to advertise as well. Eric mentioned the IPANE/NEWFS, and USFW sponsored conference last fall, in Framingham. He thinks they may be having another invasive's conference next fall, and that we should contact those in charge in order to not interfere/lose attendance. Charlie volunteered to contact them (Chris Mattrick, volunteer coordinator) to try to get them to either plan around or join forces. Mike mentioned we could ask the NEWFS to host our next board meeting in their education center. Charlie agreed to try to set this up within a month.

Mike mentioned trying to get our conference at UMB. Melinda agreed to check into availability/costs. Charlie will write up a one page statement about the mission of the Conference.

Website:

Mike moved on to the website. Nothing new has happened since the fall/winter edition. We mentioned the lack of new job listings. Charlie and Steve mentioned we need someone to consistently work on the site a few hours each week. Michael suggested an solicitation email about this, for nominations. Melinda mentioned she had a good student to ask. Mike mentioned we need to have an idea of what we want to build on this site, to direct the new volunteer. Charlie, Mike and Gib discussed more links to conservation groups and specific biological topics, and to advocacy pages. Gib mentioned there is no end to website expansion or management, and we should be more specific.

Conservation Perspectives:

Charlie brought up a possible article about current national administration changes in environmental policy. Michael and Charlie suggested Gib write, or nominate someone to write an article about this. Gib mentioned other orgs with the info, but that he was writing another article for the journal.

Mike mentioned new board member responsibilities regarding *Conservation Perspectives*. Charlie asked if this seemed fair. Most agreed it was important to mutually

take ownership of this aspect of the society. Mike mentioned "making" members help with the journal if there are not enough volunteers. Melinda also reminded all about photos being needed.

We agreed to return to the issue of the journal editions decreasing from 3 to 2 times a year. It seems we agree it is necessary for now, but that we want Marsha to have more help to bring the number back to 3 times a year, if not 4. Gib suggested we solicit colleges and universities. Steven agreed to do this. Charlie suggested targeting schools with Conservation Bio/ Environmental programs, and contacting directors personally. Steven agreed to make a list of emails to have ready by the next meeting.

Membership:

Steven mentioned 3 types of membership. Totals: 8 students, 24 professional and ___cooperate members. There are 231 SCB members in New England, and we should tap into this. There are 836 people in our email/address database, most in New England, most of whom Steven found through websites. Michael mentioned we should all take part in increasing membership.

Media Representative:

There is no rep as of yet. Mike said we should use the talents of the members to create board positions, and that board positions are not prefabricated. Julie Ellis has been acknowledged as a new board member.

Old/New business:

Melinda was voted to update minutes and remind people of duties they claimed at previous meetings.

Brainstorming (led by Mike):

Mike noted all the NESCB start up hurdles are over, and we can look to the future to our real goals. He suggested we offer small grants for field trips, guides, travel grants, bio-blitzes. We would have to find revenue sources/fundraise, especially through the website, ads for sustainable groups, T-shirts, etc. He also mentioned a memorial bequest fund for the site as a possibilities. We could also review grant applications for other groups for a fee. We could also write for our own grants from foundations, and then parcel out these funds to our applicants. It was stressed we need to devote time to social networking, and may need a grant committee to find external grants and to find new donors. Kelly mentioned a Q&A aspect for the website. Charlie replied there are not enough people coming to the site for discussions, and Steven noted even the SCB has trouble encouraging this on their members site. Mike mentioned new articles and postings are the best way to increase visits. Charlie mentioned the need for people from each state to run their state's part of the website.

Julie asked for a review of the history and role of the organization. Charlie summarized the history of the organization, and our past goals and desired new utility.

Party at Mike's the third weekend in July. It may be a fundraising event as well.