

Board Meeting Thursday, 30 March 2017

MAW Board Minutes 3/30/2017 started at 6:19pm

In attendance: William Needham, Elizabeth Hargrave, Thomas Roehl, John Harper, Jared Urchek, Bruce Boyer, Agnes Demianski

NOTE: William may not be able to attend Tuesday's meeting. John will be master of ceremonies if William is not there and Connie can introduce the Bessettes.

I. **Minutes Review** William reviewed 15 December 2016 minutes

- 303 members in December – board discussed potential growth in membership.
 - We expect a full house on Tuesday, April 4; there was also a full house last month. We've never needed to instill a members-only policy, but we will see. If growth continues, members should get priority.
 - Need to consider accessibility, centrality, and capacity of potential meeting sites.
 - Sometimes people confuse being a member of Meetup and being a MAW member so it is possible not all attendees who self-identified as 'new members' at the March meeting were new MAW members.
- 2017 calendar will be up at beginning of meetings, but will not have expected foray dates. This caused some confusion because the published dates did not mean a foray was actually scheduled.
- Shannon Nix is now our science advisor. This was approved by the membership.
- Mushroom Observer donation has been transferred.

II. **Reports of Officers**

a. **Vice- Harper**

- Mushroom fair is far off in future. We don't have a deposit yet, and no one has asked.
- Connie – may want to check, there are new people working there.
- Harper will confirm with Brookside regarding the reservation and deposit.

b. **2nd Vice- Fournet** (not present)

c. **Treasurer- Hargrave**

- \$15,000 in bank.
- Newsletter is way under budget.
- We are at a third of what we budgeted for membership fees.
- John predicted that most people are on annual renewal, will get kicked off in March, and will want to go on more forays this spring so will renew membership.
- Annual budgeting for WildApricot – they want a message from an email address for directors to confirm.
- Closed out 2016 except for a couple of odds and ends.
 - If anyone has any reimbursements needed for 2016, let Elizabeth know.
 - Bruce has not made a claim for participation in NAMA foray – to be submitted to Harper for inclusion in 2016 accounting.
- Do we know when we will get the money for NAMA foray?
 - Bruce – we should get about \$6,000. There are four registrations that were made that were not acted upon, still determining refunds based on circumstances. Bruce needs to sort out the issues by the end of this month.
 - Bruce would like to sell the organizers of this year's event some boxes and bags that MAW bought for the 2016 foray, and will ship it to them.

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- Connie reported that she heard that Trader Joes sells wax bags for cheaper than what we pay online.
- Elizabeth floated the idea of getting a debit card for the MAW account. John said we have never had one.

d. Secretary- Demianski

- Nothing to report.

e. Membership- McCoy (not present)

f. Culinary-Tasting- Weible (not present) William relayed information that was sent via email about culinary events. (NOTE: Corinne's emailed text is highlighted in grey.)

"1. These will be Sunday events from 2pm-4pm, and will be a bit higher cost because of that (\$65/hour vs \$50, or \$260 per event). Only Saturday mornings were available at \$50/hour, and Jared and I [William] agreed that we want the flexibility to hold forays in the morning beforehand. We made enough from the 2016 event that this higher rate should be no problem."

- William thinks this makes sense.
- John – 2-4pm seems too short.
- William -- \$260 covers 4 hours 1-5pm for us and cooks, 2-4pm for the main event, with an hour on either side for the cooks and cleaning up.
- Jared – regarding the foray beforehand – when should we start and where?
- Elizabeth – last year we went to Lake Needwood – concurred generally that this location was good because only 15 minutes from the tasting location.

"2. The only May/June date they have available is **Sunday, June 11**. Please let me know if you see any conflicts, otherwise we should finalize it ASAP."

- Board agrees that this date is good.
- Connie suggest that the spring tasting cover wild foods generally because there are fewer edible mushrooms than the fall. Board concurs.

"3. For fall, unfortunately the last two weekends in October are not available. Of what they have available, I think **Sunday, September 17th** is the best option, though it is the weekend before Sequenota.

The other possibilities are:

- **October 15** - not ideal given that we'll be cooking the preceding week at the Mushroom Fair, though admittedly it would draw different audiences
- **November 5th** - I'm out of town personally. I'm fine to miss but someone else at MAW would need to be the onsite coordinator
- **November 19th** - more chance of iffy weather for a foray, and also the weekend before Thanksgiving
- They also asked us to consider winter dates and would give those to us Saturdays or Sundays for \$50/hour. That actually might be something to consider if we want to fill our own slower months, especially if Phillips can give us a donation."

- Board believes that only October 15th is reasonable, other dates are too late.
- William proposes to increase budget for culinary, the dates should be June 11th and Sept 17th. Bruce makes the motion, Connie seconds, all approve.
- Thomas will coordinate with Corrine on advertising in the newsletter, etc.

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g. Programs- Durnan

- Foray on Tuesday morning with Bessettes will be at Scott's Run. The Bessettes want to foray as much as possible so we will go out Wednesday and Thursday too.
- There will be a potluck on Thursday at Connie's house instead of the Tuesday pre-meeting dinner for the speakers.
- The Bessettes have hard cover copies of their new book, but will only bring them if they know people want them.
- Very likely that Gary Lincoff be our speaker for November meeting.
- Speakers for other months are set.
 - Britt Bunyard is going to NY club after our club, NY club will pick up train fair to NY.
 - Noah Seigel is scheduled in August
 - No speaker yet scheduled for December.
- Connie requests that other members begin to provide lodging and host speakers. John said he can do that.
- Elizabeth - Reservation for library coming up to be requested on April 15 for the June to December 2017 period.
 - Board agrees to keep opening reservation time at 6:30, ending at 9:30.
- Connie - Walter Reed community center is an option for a different meeting location. People who live in VA would love to have a meeting in VA.
- We don't have anyone to be the chief mycologist for Sequanota. Gretchen Kuldau and Jay Justice are options. Gretchen lives in the area, she is speaking in May.
 - Bruce – Jay is not a North East identifier, but he would be good. Recommended that we first check with Jay on his availability.

h. Forays- Urchek

- Jared passed out calendar with dates and leaders. Trying to have two people per date in case one person cannot go.
- April 9th is first one coming up.
- William will look for a Columbia site for fall.
- William will only post foray dates at meetings when dates/leaders are settled.
- Jared suggested a foray at Belt Woods, down by Six Flags. It is one of the only old growth forests in MD, will call for information.
 - Elizabeth pointed out that Matt may have connections through the Native Plant Society.
- Connie – suggested a Pennsylvania trip at Caledonia State Park. Just a day trip. Jon will have information about that.
- Jared wants to go to state and local institutions to get a list of places where forays are permitted, which would be a useful resource for the club.
- Jared set up a Google calendar, can share with the board. Will talk with Tom about linking with MAW's website on wildapricot.
 - Bruce is concerned about revealing locations in our notices. Best thing to do is list the county, maybe region, but not park specifically. Board agrees that the current practice of less specific notice of location is appropriate.

i. Newsletter Editor- Roehl

- We are under budget because this month's edition was shorter and fewer were sent.
 - There are usually two 8pg newsletters and two 12pg newsletters.

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- A greater percentage of members gave addresses, but don't think we will get too many more. This issue has been mentioned at several meetings.
- The last newsletter was behind schedule, in February instead of January, normally the next one would be in April.
 - William – the publication schedule dates are arbitrary. Quality is more important than specific dates. Could do newsletter three times a year, or change to more frequently in mushroom season.
- Thomas – raised the question of when the newsletter for morel season should be sent?
 - Bruce suggested April and board agrees.
 - William has a morel article, but it needs revisions.
- Elizabeth suggested that the newsletter come out strategically before specific events. For example, if it came out in May it would help publicize the June culinary event.
 - William suggests that Thomas propose a schedule that is more useful. Sticking with a set date is not always the best way to do it.
- Jared mentioned there was some talk about whether or not there were burn morels here. Would that be a good subject for an article?
 - Bruce – they are a separate species that grows in the west.
 - Thomas – last year, the morel article from Tim Gehoe had an anecdote about burn morels in Shenandoah.
- Thomas – requested suggestions for a good morel recipe for the next issue.

j. NAMA Trustee- Boyer

- Connie previewed the T-shirt for the 2017 NAMA foray (Sept 7-10). It is yellow with a silk-screened logo.
- Registration for the NAMA foray is open; cancellations before August 1st get a better refund.
- The accommodations are excellent, it's a resort, and NAMA has the whole place. It is likely to be fully reserved very soon.
- On Thursday morning there will be an early bird foray to an island – sign up at the foray for those who are there early.
- William has submitted the final report for NAMA foray permit for the 2016 foray.

III. New Business

- **Mason Neck Park Eagle Environmental Festival Saturday May 20 1000-1800**
 - William erroneously called it a boy scouting event. it is actually an environmental festival and this year is the 20th anniversary. Focus is on eagles.
 - Exhibitors are requested to have a hands-on activity for children.
 - William and Thomas agree to participate, but it would be better to have additional people.
 - Bruce suggested that we offer to lead forays.
 - William will reach out to the organizers to see if we can get approval.
- **Group Growing and Cultivation – Maitake cultivar research**
 - William received an email from Gourmet mushrooms, an American company looking for North American cultivar for *Grifola frondosa*. They want us to send them mushroom specimens or spore prints.
 - Jared can provide a sample.
 - William said it would be nice to have a group cultivating group or committee.
 - Jared has cultivation experience.
 - Connie suggested that Jared could speak in December.

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- **Meetup procedures (approval and waivers)**
 - Different board members are getting messages from Meetup and don't know the legal liability acknowledgement and waiver procedures so John went through them.
 - Meetup members must request to join. John responds through Meetup and sends them an email with information about MAW and asks for personal email to send them the required waiver.
 - John has a waiver acknowledgement saved for everyone who is a member on Meetup.
 - If people are already a MAW member, they can be approved as Meetup members immediately because they have already provided a liability waiver.
 - There are a lot of pending Meetup members who have not responded or signed the waiver, and so it apparently is meaningful to some, and so the request apparently does prevent admitting people who might not agree.
 - No other board member should approve Meetup members without the vetting process.
 - Currently all board members that are listed as co-organizers of the Meetup group receive these emails.
 - Could cut co-organizers out of the process if board members want off the email list.
 - President and foray chair should continue to be co-organizers.
 - Jared will need to learn the process to set up foray invites on Meetup from John and Mitch.
- **Wild Apricot assessment response**
 - William – we will ignore.
- **Radio show in Takoma Park**
 - William – each programmer will need to become a station member?
 - Agnes and John think a monthly radio show is a lot of work.
 - Connie suggests that Ray might be interested.
 - William will forward to Ray, if he wants to do it, board will need to approve to pay the \$120 yearly fee. Then MAW board will have to approve the programs.
 - Bruce – less powerful than a blog, and more work.
 - William – if it's just an annual broadcast, we could do it in conjunction with the Mushroom Fair.
- **Albert Casciero Spain trip in newsletter 29 October – 10 November, 2017**
 - Albert is MAW member who arranges trips to Europe for forays, and would like to put an advert in our newsletter about this trip.
 - Bruce had been on two of Albert's trips to Italy (now being handled by Albert's son). The trips were very well done and would be something MAW members certainly would be interested in.
 - William will answer Albert's email, cc to Thomas that we are ok including a notice in the newsletter
 - Thomas to provide Albert with guidance on available space and format.
- **Loupe donation to 15 4H students (programs – June)**
 - Connie, now a certified master naturalist, will give a talk about mushrooms to a 4H group. She would like to provide loupes to the kids and asked to use MAW educational outreach funds to purchase the loupes. \$10 or less per loupe.

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- MAW Education funding is \$200.
- Board members had several questions:
 - Elizabeth – is this a beginner’s item?
 - These kids aren’t that young, middle to high school kids.
 - John – can’t they use lenses for their phones?
 - Not all of the kids have phones, a loupe can also be used with a phone.
 - William – are you likely to do this again? We could provide them for them to use, but not to keep.
 - Connie – it would be nice for them to keep.
 - Bruce – would it say MAW?
 - Connie – I can do some further research about the cost for an imprint. Even if I had to order two dozen, we could sell them to the club.
- **MAW Happy Hour speaker Fall 2017 (culinary)**
 - Mentioned by Corrine in email regarding culinary events. This is a Sandy Spring Museum sponsored event, not a MAW event.
 - William agreed to speak at the event.
- **MAW DROPBOX**
 - Connie would like MAW to set up its own Dropbox rather than continue to use hers.
 - John will set one up and will work with Tom to migrate everything.

IV. Reports of Special Committees, Projects, and Forays

1. Sequanota

- Dates are set, venue is reserved.
- Connie will reach out to Jay Justice as chief mycologist.

2. Mushroom Fair

- John will reach out about reservation since no inquiry has been received from Brookside Gardens.

V. Special Orders

- None

VI. Unfinished Business

- **By-Law adjustments - Clear descriptions of duties, term limits/minimums** William sent out for all to review. All changes are highlighted.
 - William wants that reviewed to be implemented for the next board meeting.
- **Communications, E-Mail alerts to members and the world – Harper**
 - Blast list – Jon used to send out notices of meetings to that list. We are not sending out to this larger group anymore. Should we resuscitate this other list?
 - William suggests sending one, or maybe two, final message with a link to our current website and a newsletter. If they are interested, they will need to be proactive to maintain membership. After that, we should discontinue communication through this list.
- **Audit**
 - In progress - John is meeting with the volunteer auditor, William Vincek on Tuesday to familiarize him with the records and start the audit for 2014-2016.

Adjourned 8:51pm – William will send out email about next meeting

2017 board meeting dates: 29 June, 28 September, 30 November