

Board Meeting Thursday, 29 June 2017

MAW Board Minutes 6/29/2017 started at: 6:30pm

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

I. Minutes review: William reviewed 30 March 2017 minutes.

II. Reports of Officers

a. Vice- Harper

- Brookside gardens - paid, reservation for October 8 confirmed.
- John would like input from Connie and William re: layout of rooms and talks for Mushroom Fair.
- Connie said they want banner one week ahead. Banner was inside last year, may need better advertising if that will be the case going forward.
- The banner policy was initiated last year with the opening of the new parking area at Brookside Gardens. They may now allow outside advertisements; John will check.
- Current sign has correct dates, but we could print a new one. Danny had the banner printed in the Philippines. Connie will contact him to discuss printing a new one.
- John was in touch with MAW member who volunteered to audit the books last week, have not heard back. He is working on 2014. Once know 2014 issues will move on to 2015 and 2016.
 - William would like progress by July 11th meeting. One option is to assign other years to other people who volunteered.
 - Bruce appreciates John following up, but not pushing it. The auditor reports to the board, William will contact him to establish a deadline (will do after July 11th).

b. 2nd Vice- Fournet

- William mentioned that Mitch is keeper of the media, needed to set up meetings. When traveling, we must coordinate media. Should this be role of 2nd VP?
- When Mitch knows he will be out of town, he finds an alternate.
- Now that William is not working full time, can coordinate more.

c. Treasurer- Hargrave – (brought a handout of current budget status)

- We have received over half of membership dues budgeted for 2017.
- Under budget for speakers, but will have more expensive ones later in yr.
- Library raised its rates; we are paid through the yr.
- Under budget for newsletters.
- We have prepaid for both tastings and provided a security deposit. Spring tasting made money.
- We don't know about Sequanota costs yet.
- 25\$ in income due to bags sold.
- Wild apricot paid up through mid December.
- Bruce – NAMA proceeds from 2016 Shenandoah Foray will be \$6214.74
- John – question about cash versus accrual method of budget reporting. There was a bunch of stuff for 2016 where checks were not written until 2017. John would suggest not reporting deposits as expenses. There was some discussion about the need to follow strict accounting rules in periodic updates with the general conclusion that the financial accounting approach used was adequate.

Board Meeting Thursday, 29 June 2017

- John also talked about membership flow – expect membership to trail off by end of yr. Seems like we are going up in membership possibly due to accessions from Meetup.
- Have 334 accounts on Wild apricot.

d. Secretary- Demianski – nothing to report

e. Membership- McCoy (not present)

f. Culinary-Tasting- Weible (not present) Board provided comments about tasting:

- Elizabeth- there were a fair number of no shows. There were no refunds for no shows. We may be able to oversell to allow for greater participation. The event has sold out twice in a row as evidence of demand
 - William- what would we do if too many show up? (No one thinks this will be an issue because the monitoring of actual numbers of people at the event was not tracked so a few people extra would not be an issue.)
 - Jared suggests overselling by 10 seats, but William suggests that we leave that up to the culinary chair.
 - Bruce- how many no shows were cooks?
 - **Action item for Corrine:** Board would like metrics for no shows so that you can provide a number you can recommend that MAW sets for the number of overbooked attendees that would be reasonable.
- Elizabeth- Corrine also needs someone to go Philips, would like to be able to pay them. (Mileage at least). William is willing to go if necessary.
- John- Meetup payment rules allow for up to three separate event sites. We are using one for forays. One site could be experimental mushroom culinary. This would be an independent group where if someone finds mushrooms, can offer to cook them up.
 - Connie thinks this should be limited to the most common mushrooms.
 - John defines experimental in terms of preservation techniques and preparation methods
 - This needs to be coordinated with the Culinary Chair

g. Programs- Durnan

- Idea for future program: have a program showing how to clean and prepare mushrooms, and even how to grow them. Can't cook the mushrooms in the library, but can do proper techniques, including canning.
- Gary Lincoff meeting is still up in the air. He needs doctor permission to go. Connie will talk to him at WV foray, otherwise will have to find alternative.
 - If do another dinner, we would be able to earn some money.
- Is there any other speaker we could do that for?
 - Bruce suggested Paul Stamets.
- Connie has been in touch with Noah Siegel, we may do a Tuesday morning foray before the August meeting.
- Nothing planned for next year, Connie is waiting for NAMA foray to recruit speakers.
 - Mitch suggested David Spahr. He's from Maine.
 - Agnes suggested a program about ticks, but others felt this was not good for an hour long program.

h. Forays- Urchek

- Saturday foray suggested at Lake Fairfax with Shannon, the MAW Science Advisor.

Board Meeting Thursday, 29 June 2017

- Jared had a question about sign in sheets since they have not had them at the last few forays.
 - Connie likes them because then we know who was there. Connie can send the template.
 - William- can also make sure that people who are on the foray are safely accounted for when the foray ends. In remote places, this can be critical
- Jared asked if the email notices okay?
 - John said non members need a code.
- Jared is waiting to hear back from Robin for July 15th foray near Culpeper. There may be an upper limit for numbers; he will probably do an event sign up through wild apricot if that is the case.
- Connie brought up whistles and the meaning of the signals- should discuss them before each foray.
- Next weekend- July 8th, Jared will be out of town.
- Suggestion from John- foray chair could establish communication with members to report what they are seeing in their areas.
 - Jared- is there a forum people could use?
 - Elizabeth suggested using Facebook.
- John- it would be potentially be of value if people who had knowledge of a local area could suggest a foray via e-mail. That way we can get members involved.
- Connie said she can lead at Long Branch and Gulf Branch Nature Center. They allow picking.
- John would like to start recording locations by GPS of where people to look for mushrooms. This may be of value for people no longer hunting.
 - Jared- at Colorado club, they had a book that we gave out as new members.
 - Bruce - don't want people to join for a yr, and poach the info.
 - William – this would take a lot of time to do right, which would require a narrative, a map and periodic updates.

i. Newsletter Editor- Roehl

- We're at about 75% communication level. More people are giving us mailing addresses. Membership up from previous quarter.
- Under budget because people are also opting out of paper newsletter. May be able to do 2 more 12-page newsletters.
- About half of people receive paper copy.
- Content generation-
 - Asked Shannon for something.
 - William sent an article about poisonous mushrooms.
 - Can include info about Mason Neck Eagle Fest.
 - Elizabeth suggested contacting the winner of the tasting for her winning recipe. Jared can provide chaga wine home brew recipe.
- Thomas requested that someone write a review of the Bessette's new book.
 - Jared can take a look, or we can use the review written by the New Jersey club.
- Next newsletter will be in July, hope to send out week after meeting.

j. NAMA Trustee- Boyer

- Received question from David Rust, the NAMA President about Wild Apricot capabilities. We arranged tastings through Wild apricot, and we also arranged Sequanota last year. Elizabeth says their customer service is responsive, and the board agreed that Bruce should advise David that he should contact them directly.

Board Meeting Thursday, 29 June 2017

- NAMA 2016 budget is nearing completion (profit split by NAMA, MAW, and New River.)
- There are a lot of leftover wax bags and display trays. Brit Bunyard who is in charge of the 2017 NAMA foray doesn't want them so we need to figure out what to do with them.
 - May send them to Oregon for the 2018 foray.
 - Propose to distribute remainder of bags to local clubs – WV, new river.
 - The trays are enough to run a full NAMA foray.
 - We can also use them at Sequanotoa.
 - Can use them at the Mushroom Fair at Brookside Gardens too.
 - Bags can also be distributed at forays.
- Bruce encouraged board members to join NAMA.
- John, Connie, Bruce going to Wisconsin for the NAMA foray this year. Several other MAW members are reportedly going as well.

III. New Business

- **Facebook posting and assignation** – used to be run by Willow Nero, the former newsletter editor.
 - William raised the question about how can we use it to communicate with a MAW Board Member responsible in order to have an enhanced publicity and outreach role. This could be 2nd VP role instead of forming another board position.
 - Elizabeth added administrators of MAW site as Facebook contributors.
 - There are over 1000 people on the MAW Facebook page.
 - Corrine made an event for the tasting on Facebook.
 - Elizabeth can create events for our meetings.
 - Thomas- sometimes people post a picture or ask for identification. Should we reply?
 - Connie said on NAMA's page there is a lot of that, and there are usually no comments.
 - Board agrees it is a bad idea to reply.
 - William – this will be tabled for future discussion. Start of Meetup was similar in that it was cumbersome at first but has proven to be a boon to outreach; Facebook could have a similar and perhaps better result.
- **Science advisor projects – Mycoflora**
 - William is bringing this up because he received an email from Robert Solem, a MAW member involved with the MD biodiversity program. They are including records of mushrooms found in Maryland.
 - Connie- iNaturalist is taking over a lot of that stuff.
 - William- we should be doing something in the science area
 - Mitch- if we want to be involved in the National Mycoflora project, we need to have rules for collection. Alternatively, if not involved in National, we could run some sequences on our own. There is a lot more to the national program than just finding something to sequence.
 - Mitch joined the Mycoflora Yahoo group and sent documents to the board to review.
 - Bruce- NAMA is making some progress to simplify what a club needs to do to submit data to Mycoflora. The NAMA Mycoflora study group will allow abridged descriptions to be submitted. We need to remain active to know what is going on.
 - Jared- met someone sequencing several *Ganoderma*, suggesting that this may be a good genus for the initiative

Board Meeting Thursday, 29 June 2017

- William- what would best fit our group, the needs of our members?
 - Connie - Can we do something at Sequanota?
 - Mitch- we would need a group to learn how to collect and voucher that aligns with Mycoflora.
 - Thomas- suggests we focus on a specific group of mushrooms.
 - Elizabeth- or we could pick a specific location.
 - Mitch- suggests we start with ones we think we know, that we find every year, see if they are what we think they are.
 - William- Sequanota seems like a good focal point, and we have a new science advisor. We can get together and hash out what we want to do. We can ask her if she has a group of mushrooms she wants to focus on. William to contact Shannon.
 - John had a suggestion about engaging the club – scientific people would be interested in doing the long descriptions, but other people could be engaged by sequencing just to see what happens. If we decide that it is interesting, could collect again.
 - Bruce- we need to help people write the description of things they want to sequence.
- **Dropbox utilization-**
 - A new MAW dropbox has been established. Agnes needs invite. New one is owned by John Harper. MAW Common. Elizabeth sent invites during the meeting.
 - **Wild Apricot migration to Amazon-** addressed via email before meeting. No Action
 - **New hospitality items, specifically coffee pot is requested-** Elizabeth will purchase.

IV. Reports of Special Committees, Projects, and Forays

1. Sequanota (Connie)

- Connie wants registration up by next week.
- It has been hard to find a speaker.
- Sequanota has raised their prices. Ray and Elizabeth will help with pricing. If Shannon becomes the guest mycologist, her spouse should come for free. Want Patrick and Shannon both.
 - Bruce- need to make sure Patrick is interested in Mycoflora theme.
 - Elizabeth – western PA member from local club perspective could be invited.

2. Mushroom Fair (discussed above)

V. Special Orders

- None

VI. Unfinished Business

- **By-Law adjustments - Clear descriptions of duties, term limits/minimums**
 - William will make two specific proposals based on what Elizabeth wrote at the next board meeting.
 - Membership procedures need to be rewritten for wild apricot process and audit oversight.

Board Meeting Thursday, 29 June 2017

- Changes to the audit rules of the treasurer to allow for a board review of the annual expenditures at the January meeting and a report to the MAW membership at the February meeting.
- Elizabeth has larger revision suggestions because she says the current bylaws are too specific. William responded that the most important thing was to change the things that are wrong this year and to work to a more broad simplification next year.
- Annual election of officers- William thought about revision for longer duration, but don't want it to be confusing. William will not officially propose this. One yr requirement sufficient, but with understanding that some positions benefit from longer terms.
- **Audit for 2015 and 2016** –
 - Discussed by John under VP above.

VII. Adjourned at 8:58pm

1. Next Board Meeting 28 September