

Board Meeting Agenda Thursday, 28 September 2017

MAW Board Minutes 9/28/2017 started at: 6:37pm

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

I. Minutes - William Reviewed June 29, 2017 minutes

II. Reports of Officers

a. Vice- Harper

- Charter payment issue resolved.
- Mushroom fair – Lectures:
 - All agree that the lectures don't need to be hyper technical. William will give a Mushrooms 101 talk, which has been well received in the past and the other talk will be about identifying mushrooms, similar to the explanation given by table leads at the ID meeting and should be done multiple times since people will be walking through.
 - John - people need to understand gills versus pores, what to look for, very basic stuff. If they want to learn more they can attend a meeting.
- Mushroom Fair – Cooking demo (Ray will do the demo):
 - John- The cooking seems to be a benefit to the members. People aren't learning much if we don't let them taste. Maybe preservation would be a good topic.
 - Connie- I wouldn't have a problem with eliminating the cooking, Brookside would probably like that, but it does get people to join.
 - William- it shows them all of the things that we do, that is what we are there for, otherwise it is just a bunch of mushrooms in the middle of a room.
 - Thomas- also visually nice.
- Mushroom fair – attracting visitors:
 - Mitch- some people just come through because they are at the gardens.
 - Connie- I went because I saw the big banner, but now we are not allowed to put up a banner.
 - John and William- no one has checked this year, **someone needs to check if we can put up a banner this year.**
 - William- we need someone at the front to draw people in.
 - John H- does that include membership info? We should just give them a sheet of paper telling them where to go online to join.
- Mushroom fair – sales:
 - John- the cultivation bags aren't necessary.
 - William- we won't have that this year.
 - John H- was there any request for people to sell there?
 - Connie- no need to solicit sellers, then they would have to fill out forms. I have a stack of Fungi magazines, can sell for a few bucks to donate to the club.
 - John H- we should have cards that people can use to subscribe to the magazine too.
- Forays for the mushroom fair: we will have 3 forays to bring stuff in the day before and two at the mushroom fair.
 - John- That is the main draw.
- Mushroom fair volunteer needs:
 - William- someone needs to do the ID session in the lecture room. Mitch can ask John E. if he will be there.

Board Meeting Agenda Thursday, 28 September 2017

- John- we need someone to set up and break down.
- William- There is usually a rush at the beginning to get the mushrooms identified, so it would be good for those people to be dedicated to the labeling task.
- Bruce- I'll have voucher slips available
- Mushroom fair – additional considerations:
 - William- will there be an agenda?
 - John- Yes, we can talk about it at the Tuesday meeting too. Can also send out an email to solicit volunteers. Will be at Sequanota, will talk to people there too.
 - John- my view is that people would bring mushrooms and we would identify.
 - William- The fair is to show people everything we do.
 - Bruce- we need a big array of named mushrooms for people to view.
 - Connie- even having them grouped.
 - Mitch- We should start IDing at 9:30.
 - William- I'll bring the gear at 10am.

b. 2nd Vice- Fournet

- I don't think I will be able to do Facebook, so we need to find a different person for managing MAW social media.

c. Treasurer- Hargrave (brought a handout)

- We are \$8k up from beginning of the yr. Membership- we are at 90% of what we budgeted, so we are ahead of last year. A lot of people tack on an extra donation. Brought in \$80 of meetup fees. \$6200 NAMA foray check came in. Connie is under-budget on speakers.
- Has Noah submitted travel reimbursement?
 - Connie- he's in Africa, can't be reached now.
- Corinne income and spending accurately predicted. Made \$200 for each.
 - William- lets keep it going at Sandy Spring.
- Sequanota registration is strong, don't know expenses yet, but okay.
- Still have some unspent budget on Mycoflora and education.
- We are taking in money on books and wax bags.
 - John- we do have to pay sales tax, it is a pain.
- Our paypal fees are higher than expected, but that is because we are using it often.
 - Corinne- should I be issuing refunds that include the fee?
 - John- don't worry about it.

d. Secretary- Demianski - nothing to report

e. Membership- McCoy- not present. (Elizabeth looked at member #s, 356 active membership units.) Board discussed group size issue:

- Bruce- we've had up to 450 in the past.
- William- we've been doing a lot of things well. The culinary meeting moving to separate venue is good.
- John- The tasting size at 50 people is already too small.
- Corinne- we could hypothetically have stoves outside.

f. Culinary-Tasting- Weible

- We had a successful tasting a few weeks ago. One cook canceled, last time several canceled.
- The availability of cooks is one thing to consider if we want to make the event bigger. Once I close registration, people volunteer to cook because they want to go. I also wondered if it was

Board Meeting Agenda Thursday, 28 September 2017

that we have a lot going on in the fall. We might consider moving it to winter. Most people use the cultivated mushrooms anyway.

- Connie- we need to also look at the Jewish calendar, Sequanota is on a Jewish holiday this year.
- Elizabeth- if we purposefully preserve our finds, that will work.
- Corinne- I also like when John brings a stove to the forays.
- William- next year, can propose the move to later.
- Corinne- I was thinking January.
- Bruce- I suggest October.
- Corinne- also will step down this year, but it is in a good place for someone to take over

g. Programs- Durnan

- Gary Lincoff will not be able to come in November, not sure when he will be able to come.
- Eleanor Shavits for November, will speak about truffles.
- Lynnaun Johnson was scheduled for November too, will try to reschedule him. He's at Northwestern University and the Chicago Botanical Garden. He said he could do local orchids of MD, VA, DC. He studies the ghost orchid and he talks a lot about fungi, but more from the orchid's perspective.
- Will be able to fill up 2018 calendar without much trouble, most people talked to at NAMA are relatively local.
- Tom Volk – he wants to come, but it is a matter of timing, we may have to change the date. We should do a dinner too and we wouldn't have to do it in the library.
 - Turtle Park is a recently opened American University community venue in the area that is walking distance from metro and has plenty of parking. One big room that holds 180 people; we can send in an application. Will find out if there can be cooking. If we need a bigger place can check it out.
- John- how about Nicholas Money? Bruce and Connie talked to him, he would be glad to come again (author of Mr. Bloomfield's Orchard).
- In other news, Connie has been elected 2nd VP of NAMA.

h. Forays- Urchek Jared was unable to attend the meeting, but sent his agenda items (highlighted in grey) so they could be discussed. Board discussion in regular text:

- Forays for rest of year - what sort of schedule and frequency are people wanting? I would like to have something more concrete lined up for the remainder of the year. I have been getting caught in sending emails more last minute than I would like to lately, and it would be better for all if I have the forays a bit more planned out. Maybe two or three more forays as we wind down into late Autumn? What is our MO for winter forays?
 - None historically
- I believe Gary Lincoff does a regular foray in NYC even through the winter, and there is always something to be talked about (get better at our slime mold and micro-fungi ID:). Do we want any winter forays? Perhaps a winter Chaga foray?
 - There are no Chaga here except rarely at higher elevations in remote areas; however, if we want to try a winter foray experiment, this would be worthwhile. William is out hiking all winter and polypores are relatively abundant.
- Foray this weekend - I will not be able to be present, but think its worth having a foray as mushrooms seem to be up. Anyone at the table tonight able to make it?
 - We believe everyone will be at Sequanota or unavailable, but we need to set up 3 forays for 6 and 7 of October so that we have mushrooms available on Oct. 8th for the mushroom fair.

Board Meeting Agenda Thursday, 28 September 2017

- I have an event coming up for a client where I'll be leading a Mushroom ID alongside of a Tree ID walk in Rock Creek Park. The walk is in memory of a young man who committed suicide. If the group surpasses 15-20 people, we will likely split the group and do two simultaneous tree/mushroom ID walks. If anyone is interested, it is paid and we can talk details as it evolves. The event is Oct 21 at 2pm in Rock Creek Park.
 - Connie is questioning if we (MAW) people would get paid? John H would be around, Mitch doesn't know trees well, maybe contact Matt. He can do trees with no leaves.
- Feedback - any feedback from folks on how forays/announcements can go smoother, or anything else people would want to recommend or advise on?
 - Bruce- I have a contact who has a place in King George County, east of Fredericksburg that is a cantaloupe and watermelon farm and has ponds. Three or four people could go down during the week, check out the property to see what is available. Seems like an ideal spot. It is 2hrs from DC.
 - John- I know someone in Leesburg who would like us to come out.
 - William- This is a good segue to the new business item #7 about forays. Multiple foray leaders and new places and more people has been successful. All of us can lead forays and will, the only issue is that we've gotten ourselves into too much process (Who will post, how to post). Standard maps have been used in the past to facilitate planning and execution. Foray chair needs to come up with the process so that he can manage it and others can lead them. Need to figure out how best to manage it and how to farm it out to others.
 - Mitch- the maps and all that business lets me have a running list of where we've gone before. If we do it in Wild Apricot and have templates, then all we need to do is change dates and times.
 - John- plug and play foray leaders.
 - William- yes, a menu, fill in the dots.
 - Corinne- the templates are easy to set up, you just need to know they are there.
 - William- I think the foray chair should do the admin stuff, the foray leader should just be able to show up.
 - John- in the maps there are no directions to show where to go on foray. We just have a meeting location, not where to hike. People who have been to particular places know where to walk, to go down a particular trail. Maybe foray leaders should have that too.
 - William- verbiage on where to go? We try to do this for people who lead hikes, and it is really difficult to describe to someone who has never been there.
 - Elizabeth- we need to capture institutional knowledge.
 - William- that seems like a collegial practice for us. Once several people go, the knowledge is shared. Having somewhat of a random aspect in a foray is a good thing.

i. Newsletter Editor- Roehl

- Monetarily everything is fine.
- There are three contributions for next newsletter. Planning on writing up Sequanota as well.

j. NAMA Trustee/NAMA Foray- Boyer

- David Rust message – someone in MD that wants to foray and sell mushrooms, is there a certification process?
 - Elizabeth- I don't think so.
- White paper- on strategies to reduce risk and expand appreciation..... from Key council of BC. Think about to set up qualifications for sellers. Bruce can send this to people if they are interested.

Board Meeting Agenda Thursday, 28 September 2017

- Insurance- NAMA has found a company that will do event insurance and for the club. As soon as that gets in place for NAMA will get info for the board to consider.

III. New Business

- **Carpool** (<https://www.groupcarpool.com>) 7/7/17
 - William- carpool thing seems to work.
 - Thomas- not many people sign up as drivers.
 - John- investigated more and there are some issues with privacy. Maybe they will improve, but these were comments from users. In some ways it is difficult for new users. Not a perfect solution.
 - Corinne- people will not log into our website to do this.
 - Connie- for Sequanota there was a part on the sign up form for carpool info.
 - John- we don't ask people to sign up for forays, it is fluid, so it is hard to organize.
 - William- we have a carpool organizer in our bylaws. I say keep using it, but this does not seem to be one of our core missions.
- **Mushroom ID from pictures/MAW mail** 7/20/17
 - William- keep getting spammed with pictures. We shouldn't identify on pictures alone for edibility. We can say what you think it might be, but with a caveat that IDs can't be positive via photo alone, and can provide additional links. Make it clear that it is an opinion. As president, I am very cautious.
 - Bruce- even as an identifier I say, we don't do that unless there is a danger that someone or a pet has been injured. Ask them to bring it to the meeting.
 - John- you can say, it can be this or this or this, but can't be sure. It is helpful to engage members.
 - William- it does encourage engagement with our group.
- **Slow Food interface** (Mushroom Fair, Special Foray) 7/22/17
 - William- Slow food people wanted to collaborate.
 - Mitch- I've dealt with them in the past, the logistics get complicated.
 - John- it would be a non-member foray and that is why I set up the Meetup group in the first place. What is our intended interaction with this group?
 - Elizabeth- they are interested in foraging. A joint foray might be good and get more people interested in joining.
 - John- Two thirds of people on the Meetup are not MAW members. The slow food people are a subset of those.
 - Bruce- have we ever been invited to any of their events?
 - William-no
 - Elizabeth- so if they ask, we can invite them to an existing foray. (Board agreed that this is how we will deal with future requests.)
- **Identifiers and Edibility** – number and method 8/7/17 and 8/14/17
 - William- There are currently five official identifiers in our club. The purpose of those people is to make sure that someone does not eat a mushroom that is bad at a sponsored MAW event. The question is, how do we add more identifiers?
 - Bruce- the group of identifiers observes nominated members in their identification processes and when they are deemed to be qualified by all current identifiers they are anointed. The prime member of that group has always been the most senior member (president). We ought to have at least 6 to 8 identifiers. The focus needs to be on liability for the club, potential risk,

Board Meeting Agenda Thursday, 28 September 2017

and safety of things that we normally serve at meetings. It doesn't have to be that someone knows every mushroom so well.

- Mitch- they must be able to admit what they don't know. We could have specific species certification.
 - William- we don't need an SAT test. I can nominate people to the other official identifiers.
 - Bruce- we can also ask if anyone wants to be an official identifier and then those people are observed. We then make a decision that some are active enough.
 - William- I will ask if anyone else is interested in becoming an official identifier, will add my own nominees.
 - John- I like the idea of having identifiers for selected species.
 - Mitch- two people should identify before it can be eaten, especially for extremely adventurous species.
 - Bruce- not all chicken is good to cook. The other problem with identifying specific people for specific mushrooms is it gets too complicated.
 - William- we will always be a committee of identifiers; people can opt out if they are not confident with an ID.
 - Bruce- we can write that down, put it in guidelines, like bylaws.
 - Mitch- if we ever got insurance, we might need to do that.
 - William- board rules could name identifiers for the upcoming year.
- **Ticks** – Foray in Greenbelt 8/8/17
 - William- a lot of misinformation or lack of information so the proposal of a tick program is on the table again.
 - Elizabeth- do we want a whole meeting on ticks?
 - William- if you understand them, you can protect yourself better.
 - Connie- after listening to people, I think this is important.
 - **Permission for photographs on web site, newsletter, facebook** 8/17/17 and 9/26/17
 - William- some people don't like to get photographed.
 - Corinne- people have privacy concerns, when people's memberships get renewed we could ask them to opt in.
 - Connie- for children, no, but for adults and a public place, it is okay.
 - Corinne- we should not tag people on facebook, or list names of those photographed.
 - Connie- we should let people know when we are photographing and that the photos may be put on the newsletter.
 - William- so something like a trigger warning, ask before starting.
 - **Meetup use for forays** 9/1/17
 - William- there is complexity in trying to be the foray leader when not the foray chair. Meetup does have some advantages. I don't want to suggest changes.
 - John- Here are my current practices: very infrequently am I posting forays on Meetup. I have now been very selective about Meetup notices. I am the only one who does it now, and I am not particularly wedded to it. I tell people if they want to go on forays they should join the club.
 - Corinne- I think it is good for the meetings to be on Meetup, but the forays are not necessary.
 - John- I can use Meetup for public events like the mushroom fair, other than that, it is not as useful.

Board Meeting Agenda Thursday, 28 September 2017

- **Mycoflora 2.0** 9/26/17 Bruce has handouts: copies of 1) the NAMA Mycoflora Committee Annual Report and 2) their proposal to the NAMA Trustees' Meeting. We have the FTA cards from Martin.
 - Bruce- The MSA is matching contributions to provide seed money for the project to get started and there is another \$10K from NAMA, they need \$10K from clubs. A club can become a participating club, get one analysis of sequencing done for \$10. If we submit \$1000 we get 100 sequences. We could start out with a smaller amount, but I think we can do 100 sequences in the next year. The key is we don't have protocols and info to make the submissions, but we have the information to prepare the samples.
 - Mitch- will they take multiple types? Do they have a specific thing they are looking for?
 - Bruce- I think they will take cards with four samples on the same card.
 - Mitch- we could do four different specimens of what we think are the same species or each quadrant a different species.
 - Elizabeth- we have \$300 already set.
 - Bruce- I propose we up that to \$1000.
 - William- I second that.
 - All member of board present support the motion.
 - **William- I can bring it up on Tuesday for membership to approve.**
 - Bruce- if they don't come up with a sequence we still pay. They also will not do any analysis, We have control over the sequences.
 - Mitch- we can BLAST them.
 - Elizabeth- we could blow through a 100 mushrooms this weekend. How do we decide?
 - Bruce- the mycoflora committee will meet to discuss.
 - William- we will know a lot more after meeting with Shannon this weekend.
 - Bruce- the other piece is to upload the data to one of the databases. (iNaturalist and/or Mushroom Observer). In January we will have a fungarium or a herbarium to to send the dried specimens to.
 - Bruce- The other document has more details about what was discussed at the NAMA trustees meeting, has the highlights of what is coming in the next 3 months.
 - Bruce- our \$1k will be matched by MSA which will be available to other clubs or citizen scientists. They will have to apply.
 - Bruce- this will be the basis for an NSF application.
 - William- MSA has organized a structure under which we can do this.
 - Elizabeth- we could get info from MSA about what species are of interest.
 - Bruce- the last piece is by Steven Russel which is just supporting the national effort.
 - Elizabeth- are we thinking we want approval for \$1000 now and then what we should put in next year's budget?
 - William- yes, now.
 - Bruce- if we can get it approved now, we should.
 - John- do we have to spend it by the end of the year?
 - Bruce - no
 - Elizabeth- we will send the 1K this year.
- **Nomination Committee**
 - William- the committee needs to be announced in October. Will look for member participants. Board members will get an email asking if they want to continue.
 - Corinne- I was going to send an email with recipes to the participants of the tasting, will ask if anyone will want to take over.

Board Meeting Agenda Thursday, 28 September 2017

- Bruce- many times the board chair assumes that board members are qualified to continue, but the committee's job is to nominate the best members for each position. The nominating committee has a responsibility to select the best candidates.
- Elizabeth- those at Sequanota should look out for new talent.

IV. Reports of Special Committees, Projects, and Forays

1. Sequanota- this weekend, nothing to discuss.
2. Mushroom Fair- discussed above.

V. Unfinished Business

1. **By-Law adjustments** – (sent via email before the meeting)
 - Article IV change: Clear descriptions of duties, term limits/minimums
 - The proposal was approved by all board members present.
 - Article XI fiscal matters: Change in audit requirements
 - William- I am done with twisting people's arms to do the audit. One of the issues is getting the receipts together. The treasurer will be more responsible to do an audit report.
 - Thomas- is it an audit if the treasurer does it?
 - Elizabeth- if someone has a concern, they should have the right to request an audit.
 - Bruce- suggested changing the wording – instead of provide an audit report, write annual report and provide ability to propose an auditor. That way they can propose the person to do it.
 - The board discussed wording and decided on the following:

At the first board meeting of the year, the Treasurer will provide a report to the board and review the previous year's income and expenditures. The president will provide the report to the membership at the following regular meeting. Any member may propose to the president upon review of the report, an independent auditor. All financial records of the association for the previous year will be made available to such an independent auditor.

- Corinne seconds the motion,
- All board members vote yes, except John Harper who votes no.
- Both By-law amendments will be introduced to the members at the regular meeting Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2017 so that they can be voted on at the next meeting in November.

William proposes to adjourn meeting. Remaining unfinished business remains unfinished. 9:44pm

2. Audit for 2015 and 2016
3. Participation in Maryland Biodiversity Database. Foray documentation (8/27)
4. Accommodations for meetings at library (announcement time 1830)
5. New coffee pot – Elizabeth still needs to purchase?

VI. Next Board Meeting 30 November