

Board Meeting Agenda Thursday, 30 November 2017

MAW Board Minutes 11/30/2017 started at 6:38pm

In attendance: William Needham, Elizabeth Hargrave, Thomas Roehl, John Harper, Jared Urchek (on phone), Bruce Boyer, Agnes Demianski, Connie Durnan, Mitch Fournet, Barbara Karpas

I. Minutes - William reviewed 28 September 2017 minutes

II. Reports of Officers

a. Vice- Harper

- Mushroom fair weather did not help turnout, nothing else to report.

b. 2nd Vice- Fournet - Nothing to report.

c. Treasurer- Hargrave

- Budget: we made ~\$3000 more than expected (\$1000 of which is from NAMA) and spent ~\$2000 less than expected.
- Upcoming expenses: the Mycoflora project, NAMA trustee expenses (paid today), December speaker, newsletter.
- William- one thing that would be good to see at January board meeting is the FY18 plan so that we can present it at the Feb. monthly meeting.
- Elizabeth- will be out of town until Jan. 18th, so needs proposals for FY18 spending before xmas.
- William- can be the same amount as previous year, if don't get actual proposals.
- Elizabeth- suggests that Mitch plan for future Mycoflora spending; can suggest a placeholder amount.
- William- suggests Elizabeth send out an email requesting proposals.
- Barbara- I think we need more for hospitality.
- John- the percentages in your table look off, they need to be normalized in some way. Library costs went up?
 - Elizabeth – cost includes what I have spent for next year reservations. Sequanota made money, this made up for 2016 loss. Elizabeth was conservative with setting reservation rates because of 2016 attendance.

➤ ACTION ITEM: Elizabeth will email board members requesting 2018 budget proposals. This email should also include request for information about location of MAW assets.

d. Secretary- Demianski- Nothing to report

e. Membership- McCoy (not present)

- Tom sent the following to William by email – membership is holding steady at ~370. May see dip in Feb if people wait to renew.
- GoDaddy payment is due soon (Elizabeth says it is on autopay).
- Bruce- it is time to tell NAMA membership chair how many members we have so they can set our amount for us. The NAMA fees are \$30 as base number, but additional amount to be affiliated depends on the size of the club.

Board Meeting Agenda Thursday, 30 November 2017

- John- 370 is units, some could be family memberships. I am curious about the gap between the 370 and the people that show up.
 - William doesn't think this is unusual. One problem is that it is hard to get to Kensington Library.
 - Connie- it would be nice to have one meeting a year in VA.
 - William- that is within the program chair's purview.
 - Bruce- it is also incumbent on people in VA to propose possible location.
 - Bruce- for our events, different people come to different events.
 - William- we could set this as a policy; to have one meeting a year in VA. It worked out last time. It could expand our membership interest. I guess of the 370, almost half are from VA and they don't want to drive to MD.
 - John- We have Kensington library through June, we can get refund anytime we cancel.
 - Bruce- VA members should propose locations to program chair, and we don't need to vote on that.
 - John- I am curious about our geographic distribution of membership. Could we get that from address info?
 - Thomas- I think about 75% gave us addresses.
 - Elizabeth- there is a way to take a spreadsheet and plug it into google maps.
 - John- it would be nice to project that map at a meeting to let people know why we want to have a VA meeting.
 - William- the Arlington main library was a good venue. We had success there.
 - John- they really rushed us to get out by 9.
- f. Culinary-Tasting- Weible (absent)
- Will have a new culinary chair for 2018 events. He will keep Sandy Spring venue.
- g. Programs- Durnan
- Connie- Tom Volk said yes. It is just a matter of when. I told him we would change our meeting date for him if needed. Sent out a few other emails, nothing cemented. I also need to know when we will not have a speaker for identification and one for ticks.
 - William- the tick one can be February.
 - Connie- out of town speakers should start in April, want a local person for March in case of bad weather. Feb. talk should be local people. There is no January meeting.
 - Connie- when are Jared and Danny doing a cultivation workshop? Jared said Feb would work.
 - Elizabeth – tick talk later, closer to season?
 - Connie- Gulf Branch off Military Rd would love a cultivation workshop. We could charge people for a workshop.
 - William- Feb talk can be psilocybin.
 - Connie- Walter reed Community center in Arlington has big rooms, could do something there.
- h. Forays- Urchek
- Jared- we had a winter foray, it went well, I think we should do more. The weather has been warm. Maybe go somewhere where we could get chaga?
 - Mitch- how far would we have to go to get there?
 - Connie/William- WVa
 - Jared- Black Water Falls has chaga, but we'd need public lands where it is kosher to pick.

Board Meeting Agenda Thursday, 30 November 2017

- Bruce- If we went to WVa – could contact Chip Chase who runs White Grass ski center in Canaan valley to set something up before snow season.
- Jared- when we went to Patuxent, I took photos of everything we found. It would be nice to share with members, like maybe a facebook post or album.
 - William- the hiking community does that on meetup, but we don't really promote forays on meetup. Tom has an idea of having a rolling photo display on our website. We should be able to have photo albums there too.
 - Elizabeth- the advantage of Facebook is that people would get push notifications, which reminds them about MAW.
 - Mitch- Jared is volunteering to do it on facebook, so why not do that? We have had an ongoing discussion about being more active on facebook. If you (Jared) feel comfortable doing that, it would be appreciated.
 - Thomas- one of our members has volunteered to help us with social media stuff. We could have her help.
 - Elizabeth- we've also had discussions about iNaturalist or Mushroom Observer. It would be nice to have a record of our forays there.
 - William- if we found a unique thing, we would definitely want to do that.
 - Mitch- maybe this could be something we could mention at the beginning of forays.
 - Elizabeth- iNaturalist goal is to get everything, I understand your point about rare stuff re Mushroom observer.
 - William- yes, bring it up and encourage at beginning of foray.
 - Bruce- Facebook has a different audience.
 - William- the others have a different purpose, different audience.
 - Elizabeth- some members would have an interest in iNaturalist projects.
 - John- I had done something like that up on meetup with albums for spring mushrooms, summer mushrooms, etc. I posted most of what is there. That does let people know what is out each season. It could be useful.
 - Elizabeth- if we got aggressive with iNaturalist, it would do that for us.
 - Jared- for facebook, I can upload an album in one shot. It will be there to process later.
- William- we discussed having multiple leaders without having complex method of sending things out so that any of the people that feel comfortable leading forays would just have to show up.
 - Jared- I think what will make that easier for me in the future is if everything is planned out ahead of time. Once things get hit or miss, it is easier for me to drop the ball.
 - William- for a while I was going to put them on meeting agendas and we dropped that since it is a moving target.
 - Jared – plot out by season, and can shift dates around, have emails ready to go.
 - William- whatever is easiest for Jared. I'm not good at getting the notices out.
- i. Newsletter Editor- Roehl
 - Next newsletter nearly done, will be sent Monday. Bruce may be able to write a memorial.
 - Bruce- if anyone has anecdotes, please send them to me.
 - William- his company name was hard scrabble and he was perfect for it.
 - Barbara- do you know when the wake is?
 - Bruce- I think the 17th?
 - Elizabeth- you could put that info in the newsletter.

Board Meeting Agenda Thursday, 30 November 2017

- John- maybe we should offer to his estate that MAW would buy out all of his logs.
- Bruce- the property will not be sold.
- Mitch- he used to come to every meeting, set up a table in the back. He had powders, cards, books, poster, plugs.
- Thomas- I also need to verify who is being nominated for board so that I can add that to newsletter.
 - William- Only the culinary chair is changing.
- j. NAMA Trustee/NAMA Foray- Boyer
 - The NAMA foray this year will be in Salem, Oregon October 11-14, 2018. It will be rugged accommodations; many people per room, shared bathrooms.
 - We need to submit a final treasurer's report for our 2016 foray to NAMA.

III. Unfinished Business

1. Identifiers – expansion and listing as board rules

- William- we have six official: Bruce, Mitch, Ray, William, Martin, Jon. Want to expand that to 1 to 2 more people. William to ask membership who would like to become an official identifier. We have a number of people who come to mind who would be qualified. We also want this listed in the board rules. Will have board rules ready for January Board meeting.
- John- we might consider having an “identifier school”.
- Mitch- even nationally, no one knows how to do this.
- William- people who have evinced an interest and are motivated is more important.
- Elizabeth- they should come out on a number of forays.
- William- this is how we identify candidates to nominate.
- John- we could do “Bring Your Own Mushrooms”. The candidates would be there, see if they can identify them and talk about them.
- William- one of our goal is to make people more competent in mushroom identification overall. We have enough people who are winnowed out from those who are interested and those who participate.
- Elizabeth- people who are interested will eventually become qualified.
- William- our need is not broad enough.
- John- I would be interested in doing it, to make that available to them. That would get people interested
- William- you could incorporate into any foray, I don't think we need to do that as a program.
- Jared- from our identification meetings and forays, it doesn't seem like we as a club have a cohesive method to identify mushrooms. We could work that into this, even for new members.
- William- one way to do that is at the ID meeting, before we all sit down, we have a basics lesson before we spread out to tables, at a field foray it might be difficult.
- Mitch- if we had some sort of idea of how to identify, but different people perceive those things in different ways.
- Elizabeth- some foray leaders are better at the fundamentals than others.
- Mitch- some people understand it in their minds, but when they actually look at a mushroom it is different – like book learning versus street knowledge. We don't have a system of identification and we don't have the resources.
- William- the whole key system is trying to do that.

Board Meeting Agenda Thursday, 30 November 2017

- Mitch- if we had the resources to put together an ID class, we would be ahead of the curve.
- William- you guys put together a 15min mushroom 101 list (from Jon E.), then everyone takes a table and we all practice it. Then we could give feedback.
- Mitch- so we need a subcommittee? Unless we act upon this, nothing will change.
- William- I can put together a mushroom 101 if you guys don't.
- Bruce- no more than 15min.
- Elizabeth- all this is separate from what John said. I liked what we did at Greenbelt. Jared should communicate with foray leaders to see if people want to do a sit down at the end of their foray. We can put that in the description of the foray.
- **ACTION ITEM: William will inform members about possibilities and requirements needed to become official identifiers.**

2. Mycoflora Committee

- William- who is the head of the committee? It is an ideal 2nd VP function.
- Mitch- let me see what I can do. We need to know what NAMA's committee is doing.
- Bruce- I've got the samples. We need guidance from NAMA as to where to send the samples. I think the steps will be: I send the package, Treasurer sends money, we must decide where to upload, fill in missing data.
- Elizabeth- you are in a holding pattern, but you can plan for next year in terms of what you want to sequence.
- Bruce- there are lots of sources, like from Martin.

IV. New Business

1. Purchase of materials – vouchers, cards, banners (10/8/17)

- William- we have a few fliers, business cards with our website (we can write on the back), and vouchers.
- Connie- can we buy a microscope?
- William- I'm talking about paper stuff to give out to people.
- Elizabeth- we have \$150 left in our education budget.
- Fliers
 - William- do we need to redesign any of these?
 - Connie- we should mention our facebook page.
 - Mitch- facebook is on the back of the flier and our meetup.
 - Elizabeth- the membership info is outdated.
 - William- so yes, we need to modify this. Who has the electronic version?
 - Mitch- I will email Willow.
 - William- how do we order these? (Mitch should ask Willow.) we should print 1000, need by next yr.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Mitch will contact Willow about electronic version of the flier and where to order more.**
- Cards
 - William- foray chair should have these at least. They are convenient.
 - Mitch- I think I have a template that you can put your name on them
 - Connie- this is cheaper.
 - Elizabeth- I like the generic ones that we can hand out in the woods.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Connie will get these printed if we need more.**
- Vouchers

Board Meeting Agenda Thursday, 30 November 2017

- Bruce- we are almost out of vouchers. I will get a proposal for these. We use them for multiple events. How many should we have? We can add our logo.
- William- they come in packets of 50.
- Mitch- good for the field.
- **ACTION ITEM: Bruce will work out where to order from, cost, and layout with needed specimen information.**

• Banners

- William- the one we have is falling apart.
- William- the green table cloth is good.
- Connie- I want to find the manufacturer of ones I've seen in my neighborhood; wind goes right through them.
- William- we don't really need an outdoor banner.
- Connie- there are holders where you can have a nice banner and it pulls out like a window shade. It is portable, folds down flat. It is free standing. If we had a portable stand, we wouldn't have to deal with taping things up. They are not cheap.
- William- what does not cheap mean?
- Elizabeth- more than \$200
- Connie- the stand plus banner; total package.
- William- I don't think we need one that says mushroom fair, but we need something as a visual display for any venue.
- Connie- we don't need to decide tonight or pay with this year's budget. Maybe Tom can design it.
- **ACTION ITEM: Connie, William, and possibly Tom will identify desired material, source, pricing, and design.**

2. Ads for newsletter policy (10/12/17)

- William- came up due to mushroom farm for sale ad. Can we do other ads, how do we want to do it?
- Thomas- for the ad for Spain, he was a member. It should be easier for members to place ads in the newsletter, but we don't want there to be a whole ad page.
- Elizabeth- I don't mind ads if they are mushroom related.
- William- if we had non-members interested in placing ads, they would be charged.
- Elizabeth- I don't think recurring ads should be free, even for members.
- Thomas- there is no policy right now.
- Bruce- how many requests do we get?
- Thomas- one or two a year.
- William- do we need to establish a policy? So far I hear if you are a member, one time placement is ok. Ads for commercial enterprises are not okay.
- Elizabeth- there is a fine line. There are commercial enterprises that our members would be interested in.
- Mitch- was the Spain one a commercial enterprise?
- Elizabeth- this is a subjective call.
- William- if they need to pay us, we would have violated this rule.
- Mitch- so Thomas needs guidance.
- William- that is why it is on the agenda.
- Mitch- does this need to be a board agreement every time?
- Elizabeth- or do we have a hard rule?
- William- since it doesn't come up often, it seems ad hoc.

Board Meeting Agenda Thursday, 30 November 2017

- Bruce – we do not do non-member ads, otherwise it is an ad hoc decision by the board.
 - Mitch- would we let members give away stuff in the newsletter?
 - John- we could have a classifieds section on the website.
 - Elizabeth- I am curious to see if we get more requests now that we have had a couple.
3. MAW materials for display, programs, cooking, forays; who keeps them? (10/15/17)
- William- it has always been confusing to me who has what. There is no clear line of authority, it is just based on who had it last.
 - Bruce- it is a matter of our policy. Our bylaws tell us; it is part of the audit to know where the assets are.
 - Elizabeth- is it just mentioned in passing in the bylaws? When I send out my budget email I will ask people what MAW assets they have.
 - William- it would be of value to have a manifest of where stuff is.
 - John- but it is not static.
 - William- it makes sense to for people who are responsible for an activity to have the stuff related to their activity.
 - Elizabeth- or stored by whom they designate. Lets figure out where everything is now, then we can decide who should be responsible for it in the future.
 - William- I know John has the stoves and Mitch has the foray stuff.
 - Connie- I think Martin has the extra projector.
4. Cultivation and dyeing demonstration (10/18/17)
- William- cultivation demonstration set for March.
5. Change of meeting or culinary venue (10/18/17)
- William- will decouple Sequanota from mushroom fair from NAMA foray.
 - John will check with Brookside to see what is available for FY18 Mushroom Fair. Do we only want to do Sundays?
 - William- we prefer Sundays.
 - Connie- they have weddings on Saturdays.
 - William- be ready to lay out what the possibilities are in January.
 - **ACTION ITEM: John will contact Brookside Garden regarding possible dates for 2018.**
6. Electronic voting (11/7/17)
- William- we are supposed to have 10% of members available for elections. I am wondering what happens if we don't have a quorum.
 - Thomas- is there an easy way to do this?
 - Elizabeth- I've been a member of lots groups where they say mail in your ballot and if you don't reply they consider that an approval. This may require a bylaw change, but as membership grows this will be more important.
 - William- doing it by email or any other way may not improve the participation, but it is nice to have something that goes out to all members and ask for a response.
 - Elizabeth- I don't think last year we checked who was a member and who wasn't.
 - William- we didn't, but I don't want to get into that, it is awkward enough as it is.
7. Mushroom of the day for website (11/29/17)
- William- This is a suggestion from Tom- replace the photo slider with a mushroom of the day photo slider. I would need member photos and their willingness to share.
 - William- this gets back to our outreach with photos.

Board Meeting Agenda Thursday, 30 November 2017

- John- Tom Volk's mushroom of the month is a bigger production. He writes a blurb.
- Mitch- I think Tom meant month.
- William- refreshing the website and keeping it alive is important.

8. Mycoflora page on web (11/29/17)

- William- another of Tom's ideas. Good idea.
- Bruce- we will have to update periodically
- Thomas- at least have a list of species.

9. Poisoning report (11/30/17)

- William- I got a call from a woman whose dog died. It was a 15yr old dog. She had a pic of a mushroom, it looked like a false morel.
- Mitch- yes that or a helvella.
- William- The sample is after the dog vomited. He went through violent death throes. Martin and I have been corresponding. Martin looked at the spores, we have a picture of the spores. He wanted the board to say ok.
- William- I will post it to iNaturalist. I think this would be a good example to have this sequenced. I am intrigued. This would be part of MAW's role in poison response.
- Mitch- the sequencing is iffy. I got some biomashers, I can bring supplies to the meeting on Tues.
- Bruce- I would not include this in the mycoflora database.
- William- I have the official report from the vet as well.

10. Calendar planning for 2018

- William- We need to start setting dates.
- Elizabeth- I think we need to set a calendar and plan stuff out. This year there was a ton of stuff bunched together.
- William- agree we should move things apart.
- Bruce- it was originally set up to have Sequanota to pick mushrooms, bring those to the fair.
- William- the mushroom fair is now independent, we should decouple them.
- Mitch- I was told the boletes are out at Sequanota in July.
- William- yes, lets lay out the calendar with some forethought and flexibility.
- Connie- for Sequanota, we have a date because they need to know a year in advance.
- Elizabeth- we should look at other important dates like NAMA and WVa foray as well.

V. Reports of Special Committees, Projects, and Forays – pertinent info discussed above.

VI. Adjourned at 9:36pm

Next Board Meeting 25 January 2018.