

New England Society of American Foresters  
Annual Business Meeting  
March 24, 2004  
Hotel Hilton, Quebec, Canada

The meeting is opened by Chair Tom O'Shea at 1238 hrs.

1. Welcome - Tom O welcomes all in attendance and indicates where copies of last years minutes and budget reports may be found for those who might like them.

Antitrust Statement - the statement is read and explained.

Introduction of NESAF Officers - Tom O introduces the current EC members

Remembrance of NESAF members - We are poorer by loss of four members: Erlin Olsen, Ingersol Arnold, Richard Deerwood and ???.

Add other agenda items to address - No new items are offered.

Minutes from the March 18, 2003 Annual Business Meeting - amend and approve - David Field makes a motion to accept the minutes of March 18, 2003 as written. Second by Marc Trembly. There is no discussion. Motion is called and passes unanimously.

2. NESAF Chair Report - Tom O'Shea

Our finances are in good shape. We need to maintain good communications between members and officers (EC). It would be good to bring in "new talent". The NESAF web site is mentioned. It is under construction. Tom O allows that \$1750 has been invested thus far in getting the site up to speed. He mentions that we have a new person to keep the site updated. Once fully up it will be possible to download forms and similar useful items from the site. The NESAF News Quarterly is mentioned. It will now include Forest Science and Technology. Tom O then delves into the Policy Chair issue. Tom O goes over the history of the position. He poses the question as to whether we (NESAF) should be involved in policy and, if so, to what degree. We need to go back to the state chapters to get a sense of where the membership is on this issue. Tom O goes on to discuss the proposal by Charlie Levesque and the plan formulated by Ken Laustsen concerning the hiring of a paid policy person. He asks the question; just what would this person do? Tom O then returns to the subject of the Working Groups. Science is important. We need to make better contacts: Working Groups need more involvement from the members. Tom O also mentions the various committees in NEAF and the need for volunteers to make them work. He mentions our Administrative Assistant who is available to help with administrative items. The item of transition between current committee members and new committee members is mentioned. We have an ever evolving and growing Operations Manual to assist all committee members. We (NESAF) need to maintain our link with National as the national office goes through its current issues and changes.

3. Council Member Report

Leo Laferriere begins by recognizing the work done by his predecessor, John McNulty. Leo L goes over the issue at the National office where they are in the process of identifying their real assets. They are being tabulated with the idea of being used to best benefit the membership. They will come up with a plan. There is

real estate involved but title is somewhat complicated. The Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_ is a big item of discussion. It is possible that there will be a decentralization of responsibility and authority. How SAF works is being carefully looked at. John M is part of the committee looking at assets. Leo L refers to notes found in his byline in the News Quarterly. He mentions the nominations for Fellows. He also mentions that nominations for Field Foresters are due by March 31<sup>st</sup>. nominations are needed. The form is or will be available on the net from the web site. Leo L mentions the issue of questions around values (referring to issues at SAF National) and he indicates they are not always based on money values. There is supposed to be a preliminary list by April 15, 2004.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report/ 2004 and 2005 Budget - Larry Rousseau

Tom O makes some opening comments before turning this portion over to Larry R. He talks about the Leadership Academy and encourages members to go when possible. He mentions the monies allocated to help offset the cost of members who wish to attend. The amount is a set amount by state. Tom O hands over this portion of the meeting to Larry R. Larry R goes over the budget information laid out on five sheets which are made available to the attendees. There are no questions on the income section and none on the expense side. A motion is made by Gibb Dodge to accept the budget as presented. A second is received from Brad Wyman. The motion is called on the 2004-2005 budgets as written and presented. Passes unanimously.

#### 5. Policy Committee Update

Tom O asks the question as to if we should be getting involved in policy and, if so, how much. Richard Carbonetti feels we need a strong policy presence and he feels we cannot do it with volunteers. Tom O asks 'where do we fit in the policy spectrum?'. Richard C indicates that we need to correct inaccurate and incorrect data. He feels we need to be involved in the decision making process. Dr David Field goes over what he feels are the various issues. He feels that many of the issues are "brush fires". He allows as we need to get ourselves better educated on what is available on policy from National. We need to get the membership together. He is not convinced about hiring someone to do policy. We should use the web site and updated policy position statements. The question is asked as to whether other regions are having the same conundrums. Michael Durgon asks what is the actual issue? Is it lack of information or a lack of impact on legislation? He points out that paid positions do not normally do policy stuff in other regions.

#### 6. Working Groups Report

Laura Kenefic makes an introduction and gives credit to her predecessor Jeff Ward. Laura K indicates she wants to continue the practice of publishing the poster sessions. The Working Groups met last night. Talks about the use of the web site. Also mentions the ballots for voting on the best poster at this meeting. Laura K further mentioned that the Silviculture Work Group will have a summer meeting; time and place to be announced at a later date.

#### 7. NESAF News Quarterly - Brad Wyman

The News Quarterly is being expanded by four (4) pages of theme based items. Brad W would like to have an editorial committee to review these special pages to insure accuracy and completeness. He feels he may not necessarily have the technical expertise on some of the material to properly proof/edit it. We, of course, will need a steady supply of material to keep this four-page addition running and interesting. Brad will explore the feasibility/practicability of having the NQ go on line. He asks for contributions.

#### 8. 2005 NESAF Winter Meeting

Ron Lemin will chair the 2005 NESAF Winter Meeting in Maine. Ron L goes over what particulars are already in the works.

## 9. State Reports

Maine - Bob Wagner (Chair Elect) - goes over the list of new officers in Maine. It is the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Maine Forestry Program. There is a celebration tonight. There has been improvement in the Maine poster contest. Maine will host the 2005 NESAF Winter Meeting. Will be sponsoring a meeting on May 27-28 on liquidation harvesting and a visit to the Bartlett Forest to see hardwood management techniques. Tom Coleman (U Maine student) goes over alumni and student activities connected to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Rhode Island - Paul Dolan - The "Walk in the Forest" initiative continues. There were/are 3000 students and 4000 adults. The Envirothon this year will have an urban element. They are working with "Smart Growth" and "alternative forest products". There are two land owner workshops. They help sponsor two training sessions with Yankee Woodlot management. They are also working on legislative packages. Some demonstration woodlots have been set up around the state.

New Hampshire - Granite State - Peter Howland - Just came off their winter meeting. Goes over list of new officers. There is a movement to eliminate the state tree nursery. They are working with UNH to get them more involved in the annual meeting.

Connecticut - J P Barsky - Annual meeting held on January 23. They continue to support/sponsor the Envirothon program. CT did 26<sup>th</sup> in the nation, 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on forestry. Sponsored Helene Flounders on the CT resource plan. There have been some good events. A celebration at/of the state forest system in CT which was begun in 1903. He went over some meeting highlights and indicated elections were to be held in November.

Massachusetts - Rob Rizzo - the chapter is in flux. They finally have officers in MA. The chapter is trying to resolve/move past/current problems. They have been meeting to deal with the problems.

Vermont - Richard Carbonetti - Mentions the issue of UVM dropping its SAF accreditation. The summer meeting was on silviculture around private vs state lands.. Worked on an alliance of wood users and artisans. Held their second legislative breakfast. They are being asked into the legislature somewhat more now. He mentions SFI and their relationship with GMD. Talks about the ATV and other policy issues in Vermont. He indicates a strong interest in ethics. There are the GMNF issues. They are updating their state web site and soliciting new officers.

There is a question from the floor by Julia ? of New Hampshire. She asks how long it has been since the format for the winter meeting has been visited. She is advised by the Chair that they will discuss this later.

There is a motion to adjourn from Adam Moore. A second from Peter Connorton. Motion is called and passes unanimously.

## 10. Adjourn