

New England Society of American Foresters (NESAF)

Executive Committee (EC) Meeting

Friday, September 19, 2008

Location: Mount Moosilauke Ravine Lodge, Warren NH

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#### Members present:

9 Joseph P. Barsky Connecticut State Representative

10 Paul Dolan Rhode Island State Representative; Nomination Chair

11 Andrew Fast Secretary

12 Mariann Johnston Website Administrator

13 Ron Lemin Jr. Vice-Chair; Membership Chair

Margaret Machinist Co-Editor of NESAF News Quarterly
 Scott Machinist Co-Editor of NESAF News Quarterly

Spencer Meyer Maine State Representative
 Ed O'Leary Vermont State Representative

18 Larry Rousseau Treasurer

19 Randy Stone Massachusetts State Representative; Awards Chair

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#### 21 Guests:

22 None

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#### 24 Members not present:

Roger Dziengeleski Council Representative
 Don Floyd Canadian Representative

27 George Frame Chair

28 James Harding Forest Science Coordinator

29 J Peter Howland New Hampshire State Representative; Policy Committee Chair

30 Ken Laustsen Immediate Past Chair

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#### Meeting opened by NESAF Vice-Chair (acting chair), Ron Lemin at 9:35 AM

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#### A. Standard items:

Sign in sheet (Fast) – verify contact information: The standard sign-in sheet was circulated.

Welcome: Ron L. welcomed all EC members and introduced Scott Machinist, the new Co-Editor of NESAF News Quarterly.

**Antitrust statement**: The antitrust statement was presented.

Add/Adjust agenda: Spencer M. requested adding awards under New Business. The agenda was not changed and awards discussion was addressed through the awards standing committee report.

Corrections/Additions for the June 19, 2008 EC meeting minutes (Fast): The New Hampshire update was stricken (lines 172-210) and replaced with notes taken by JP B. at the 6/19/2008 EC meeting. One "Ed O'L." should be removed from line 224 and Larry R. moved to adjourn on Line 270 with a second from Paul D. No additional corrections were suggested for the 6/19/2008 Executive Committee minutes. A motion

was heard from Larry R. to accept the meeting minutes; a second to the motion was heard from Spencer M. The question was called and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (Rousseau): Larry R. distributed the NESAF Net Worth Report as of 9/19/08. Account balances reflect balances to date. CD interest is reflected through 6/30/2008; \$552 was added in September to the funds earning account (interest of cd maturity). Vermont returned a \$1000 grant, which has been added to the fund's earning report. \$1600 will role into next year. A motion was heard from Paul D. to approve the Net Worth Report as of 9/19/2008; a second to the motion was heard from Spencer M. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

#### B. Old Business:

**Electronic balloting:** Massachusetts nominations were due September 4, but they did not have a slate. Rhode Island is holding internally. Paul D. has not received anything from Connecticut, but it is likely that they were sent directly to national.

Paul D. suggested that either state representative or the state chair be responsible to get nomination information to him but it should be one or the other. Ed O'L. suggested that NESAF get information out to chapters/divisions earlier in the process.

Paul D. told the EC that non-deliverable email addresses bounceback to national. Louise Murgia is supposed to send a list of these non-deliverables to the divisions and chapters. NESAF or the divisions/chapters will be responsible for sending out local ballots. Paul D. noted that voting has moved up two months, which is good for the long run but causes short term confusion.

Margaret M. reminded the EC that there was going to be a write-up in the News Quarterly on what members should do to vote electronically; however, the News Quarterly will come out too late. National will send out an email telling members to vote electronically. If SAF members do not have an email or opt out of the electronic voting, it will be the nominating chair's responsibility to find out from national who these individuals are and ensure that ballots are sent out to them. Paul D. will find out from national who is not reachable by email or has opted out of online voting and send ballots out these these individuals.

Results of the elections will go to Paul D. and Paul D. will pass election results on to Margaret and Scoot M. for inclusion on the back page of the News Quarterly.

A motion was heard from Spencer M. that state representatives are responsible for submitting all electronic nomination packages as well as paper and electronic results to the NESAF nominating chair; a second to the motion was heard from Ed O'L. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

State representatives should communicate the results of this motion to the chairs of their respective chapters and divisions.

<u>State representatives should email their respective chairs and ask for all (electronic and paper)</u> election results.

Spencer M. will draft a short blurb to clarify election and balloting questions for the News Quarterly and will provide it to the News Quarterly Co-editors prior to the October 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Spencer M. detailed the election timeline. In October, there will be an email from national telling membership about the online voting opportunity. In the first or second week of November, election results will be sent from national. Paul D. will clarify how results will be disseminated after he speaks with Louise M.

Winter Meeting 2009 Update (Ron L.): The winter meeting will be titled: "Bio: mass fuel products and diversity. Resource management in a changing world." Co-sponsors include the Maine chapter of the Wildlife Society, the New England chapter of the International Association of Arboriculture (ISA),

northeast chapter of the Forest Guild, and the Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine (SWOAM). <u>The EC should get membership lists from the four groups so all members can get discount member registration</u>. The Holiday Inn (by the bay) in Portland is charging \$89/night. Members will be charged \$125 for the full winter meeting (March 18-20, 2009) if they register before February 15<sup>th</sup>. Walk-ins will be charged \$150 for the full three days. Non-members will be charged \$200 if they register early and \$300 as walk-ins. Non-members will be charged \$150/day as a walk-in.

There will be concurrent sessions that will address all partnering groups' interests. Spencer M. is looking for "hot themes." Participants will get credit based on each partnering group's criteria. For example, the Society of American Foresters Certified Forester board is only giving credits for presentations greater than 30 minutes. Sign up sheets will be present in each room. JP B. relayed an experience at the 2008 winter meeting when participants coming in 5 minutes late were not allowed to sign in and get credits. It will be important to communicate to participants of the 2009 winter meeting that there are more stringent guidelines for credits – and they should not be late! No fieldtrips are scheduled for the 2009 winter meeting yet. A base level GIS workshop may be included.

The NESAF history project (Ken L.): Ron L. provided an update from Ken L: Ken L. has received a final copy (Consulting Forestry) and a draft (State Government and Policy) from 2 of the 4 Maine focus writers. Ken L. needs a list of missing News Quarterly issues so that Lloyd Irland in his travels to Yale to teach can obtain copies from that Library.

Ron L. asked if state writers could use a little push. David Stevens is still working on the Vermont perspective and it would be alright to contact him. Tom Dupree and Hans Burgee are working on the Rhode Island perspective. It would be helpful to have some deadlines issued to them. JP B. is approximately half way done with the Connecticut perspective. Massachusetts is still working on their perspective. Randy S. will assemble the Massachusetts perspective. None of the EC present could speak to the status of the New Hampshire perspective.

As indicated in Ken L.'s update, a list of missing News Quarterly articles is needed. Margaret and Scott M. will find Brad W.'s list of missing News Quarterly articles. This information may be in a recent News Quarterly. If Ken L. does not work with Lloyd I., JP B. can get photo copies of missing News Quarterly articles once the list is found.

Ken L will write the whole NESAF history.

Forester's Fund Grant for Local Leadership Academy (Ron L.): JP B. knows two new Connecticut officers that are pretty young who may participate. Ron L. suggested that some individuals are selected who have not gone to the national leadership academy. Spencer M. shared how beneficial it was having older, more experienced individuals participating in the leadership academy. Each chapter/division should consider selecting approximately 8 individuals to participate and should bring a list of invitees to the December meeting. If some of the individuals selected do not come, the leadership academy will still have 25-30 participants, which is the target. New York will send some members as well and may help with the planning. The 1-9 year membership class is the target audience (as written in foresters fund grant). The EC is going to ask states to supplement \$1200 or provide scholarships for the leadership academy.

Ed O'L. offered to assist wih the organization and planning of the Leadership Academy.

#### C. NEW BUSINESS:

National Convention November 2008 Reno, Nevada: The national convention is November 5-9, 2008 in Reno, Nevada. George F. and Ron L. will be attending the convention including the House of Society

Delegates meeting. \$4500 is provided in the budget for this expense. The Rhode Island chapter will also be sending a representative to the national convention.

HSD has established a new award category - success stories. Next year, NESAF hopes to provide the leadership academy as a success story.

#### Standing Committee reports:

Nominations and Election (Dolan): 2008 slate of openings - All are filled. Massachusetts is the only chapter/division with competition. Paul D. needs to check whether Connecticut has submitted candidates to national.

(11:00 AM. The EC took a break at this point and resumed at 11:15 AM.)

**Policy (Howland):** Ron provided an update on the highgrading co-policy with New York sent from Pete H. who was not present. Pete H. has been in touch with Carl, and Carl has sent him some information. Pete H. is still in the information gathering stage and will have more for the EC to discuss at the next meeting. During the interim, comments or suggestion can be emailed to Pete H.

**Membership (Lemin):** Ron L. had nothing new to report except noting that when he assumes the NESAF chair position, the membership position will be vacant.

Forest Science Coordinator (Harding): James H. was not present.

**NESAF Website (Johnston):** There was discussion with comments from JP B., Ron L., Paul D., ED O'L., Spencer M., and Randy S. about when it would be most appropriate to appoint a new website coordinator, questions about how many individuals were interested, and who might be qualified to assume the position. Peter Greeno, and Deb Boyer, and Chuck Hersey are all interested. Randy S. suggested that interested candidates submit a letter of interest, and the EC should make sure each candidate understands the responsibilities.

The EC decided that Mariann J. should be consulted prior to moving forward with any discussion since she is most familiar with interested candidates. The website committee will decide who is best qualified to assume the website coordinator position. That person will be invited to the next EC meeting.

Spencer M. received a request to forward an email announcement for a program through the NESAF membership email list. Spencer M. suggested that the EC develop a standing policy for such requests, perhaps differentiating between science based information and general advertisements. Ed O'L. expressed a desire not to burden membership with too many emails. There is a calendar on the website and it might be beneficial to have all programs posted to the website and encourage membership to reference the website calendar regularly. For the News Quarterly, Brad W. would make the decision what should be advertised.

Spencer M. mentioned that an alternative would be sending emails to membership. This would be viable if there is an option for members to "opt out" (unsubscribe) of such emails if they do not want to receive them. Margaret and Scott S. will provide something in the News Quarterly that highlights the calendar and reminds membership that it is a website resource. Spencer M. suggested that it would be a beneficial service for members to use the NESAF website as a clearinghouse for programs with CFUs associated with them. There was general agreement that announcements for workshops where CFUs were awarded should be put on the website. Challenges would arise when considering non-SAF educational opportunities, such as the Yale School of Forestry lecture series, an example brought up by JP B. Randy S.

thought there should be some kind of filter. One option would be sending potential programs through the forestry committee.

A motion was heard from Margaret M. that an additional listserve should be developed devoted to issues of general interest to our membership with an opt out capability and making it the reasonability of the web committee to come up with criteria for acceptable postings. The web administrator will make final approvals; a second to the motion was heard from Ed O'L. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Grants (JP B): Green Mountain Division had to return one of the grants that were awarded to them. They were going to publish a calendar with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. Vermont legislators told Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department not to put out the calendar since much of the funding was no longer available. GMD returned the money awarded from the grant and sent a letter along with an explanation.

December is grant month so JP B. needs all requests prior to the grant meeting in December. Grant request information is on the NESAF website. <u>JP B. will develop a blurb on grant requests to include in the News Quarterly</u>, which he will provide to Margaret and Scott M.

Awards (Stone): Randy S. gave an update on the resolution of the integrity awards. Ken L. has a proposed solution and the EC will follow Ken L.'s lead.

(12:05 PM. The EC took a break for lunch at this point and resumed the meeting at 12:55 PM. Mariann J. joined the EC during the break.)

There has been feedback on the fellows award process. At the June meeting, George F. gave Randy S. fellow certificates to frame and mail out as well as pins to mail to the fellows. There was confusion about the National SAF award presentation procedure and a number of emails have been exchanged. Max McCormack had concerns that the national procedures were not followed. Awards were supposed to be presented at the next winter meeting. The error was a result of poor communication between national and NESAF. Randy S. was going to submit an article to News Quarterly, but is not sure at this point where we are in the process of following national's procedures. Randy S. is going to get in touch with George F. to discuss how to proceed. Since fellows have been official notified, Ron L. believes that they can be recognized in the News Quarterly.

Spencer M. agreed there are a number of hard feelings surrounding this award. Spencer M. suggested considering not doing anything until an appropriate response is identified. Ed O'L suggested sending a letter to the national committee and recipients saying there was miscommunication, a mixup, and letting them know we will find a way to ensure this does not happen in the future.

Spencer M. asked for Max M. to provide a 1-page write-up on how the awards process should function in the future. George F. will ask Max M. to provide a one page write-up on how the fellows award process will work or delegate this responsibility to an EC member. Ron L. will ask Max M. if NESAF can recognize fellows at the NESAF winter meeting as well as the national meeting. Spencer M. suggested that a letter is sent from NESAF recognizing the fellows.

The EC took collective responsibility for the confusion and acknowledged that Randy S. was carrying out administrative duties voted on by the EC. It was again stated that Max M. should publish the protocol

for fellows awards and make NESAF aware of this protocol. George F. should provide a recognition letter with input from Spencer M. and Ron L.

NESAF Website Revisited (Johnston): Mariann J. gave an update on a replacement for her as NESAF website administrator. Three people inquired initially, and two people are interested now. The interested parties, Deb Boyer and Peter Greeno, both have experience with website work. Deb is interested in contributing to NESAF in another capacity if the website administrator position is filled by someone else. Mariann J. suggested that Deb B. also contact Granite State Division (GSD) since, the GSD is looking for a website administrator as well. Chuck Heresy from UNH Cooperative Extension is interested in contributing to NESAF if there are any opportunities.

 The EC decided candidates should submit a letter of interest and a little about their qualifications. The website committee would decide who to select, and vote on that person. Many other positions will be open next year for any individuals who are not selected for the website administrator but still want to be involved.

Spencer M. asked if Mariann J. is willing to continue as the website administrator until a replacement is selected. Mariann J. is willing, but the EC should recognize she has a number of other professional obligations that are demanding her time as well.

Mariann J. was made aware of the request to advertise a conference through the NESAF website and, the desire of the EC to create separate email distribution list for "things of interest" such as conferences. Mariann J. made the EC aware that if a member opts out of the any NESAF email distribution list then that member opts out of all NESAF email distribution lists. Unfortunately, there is no way around it. Mariann J. suggested sending a monthly or quarterly email correspondence making members aware of opportunities. Presently, anyone can add an event to the website calendar as long as the NESAF website administrator approves it. A timetable should be developed for removing postings; thirty days was suggested.

There are over 800 email addresses for NESAF members and 8% have bounced back. Few individuals have opted out of the email service. Despite being able to reach most NESAF members, ground mail would be necessary to reach all members. Discussion ensued about the benefits of sending out regular emails to membership, about members opting out of the email lists to avoid extraneous emails, and what constitutes a legitimate use of the email system. It was decided and asked to be reflected in the minutes that NESAF will not be sending out updates on individuals programs or opportunities. Instead, emails will be sent out monthly. It was not decided who will send out the monthly email, but the website administrator is one option.

Mariann J. read a letter from a concerned former NESAF member who wanted information about liability and highgrading. The former member tried to contact NESAF and never got a reply. The former member also charges that NESAF is too academic. It was pointed out by members of the EC that NESAF addressed these topics at last winter meeting.

JP B. suggested that there could be comments from membership, "the email basket," included in the News Quarterly. This idea was supported by other members of the EC with the additional from Paul D. that both positive and negative letters are included and the suggestion from Spencer M. that letters are anonymous. Mariann J. will pass along relevant letters to News Quarterly editors.

Mairann J. raised a concern that Nory Parr, who is retiring, was going to be the continuing education website chair. It is uncertain whether Nory P. intends take on this duty in retirement. The EC felt it would be beneficial to populate the continuing education page with relevant programs as well as information on receiving credits in New England states. Spencer M. suggested inviting Nory P. to the next meeting to discuss Nory's future interests and the continuing education page further. Ron will contact him. Mariann J. recommended that the website administrator not be responsible for populating the continuing education page. It could be another member of the EC or part of the general membership who wants to volunteer.

Budget Report (Larry R.): Larry R. distributed the budget report as of September 19, 2008. The only new item to income is a 50\$ check from Merve Stevens. A letter will be sent from Larry R. to thank Merve Stevens for his contribution. NESAF has not received any cash from the New York meeting yet. That will be added to meeting returns under income. We anticipate receiving a minimum of \$2000 split three ways between New York, Yankee, and NESAF. June through September dues should also come in but Larry R. anticipates minimal additions.

Expenses associated with elections is questionable. 300\$ is anticipated, but it is unknown how many paper ballots need to be sent in. Bi-law changes were a considerable expense. There is \$1200-1300 left for that EC operations. This meeting will cost approximately \$500-700. Accounting associated with the form 990 is \$340 over budget and there is more to come.

Larry R. has not been invoiced yet by the House of Society Delegates. National sends each division an assessment based on membership numbers. Expenses for website enhancement were \$3400 for the year. Spencer M. was the only one attending the National Leadership Academy. Expenses should be less than projected.

Spencer M. reminded the EC that NESAF will be invoiced from National for electronic balloting sometime in November-December, 2008. For 1000-1100 members, there is a flat rate of \$200. NESAF will have to pay national this amount for electronic voting. A motion was heard from Paul D. to accept the report as prepared; a second to the motion was heard from Spencer M. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

George F. filed a second form 990 extension in August. There is a balance problem of approximately \$2000. The EC wants to make sure there is a reference point for future 990s. Larry and George will be able to square away the filing of the 990 by next meeting. There may be a training session for future treasurers which may happen in March. The last accounting invoice for the 990 totaled \$1700. There is \$400 on the account which should cover us for the rest of the year.

NESAF News Quarterly (Machinist): Margaret and Scott M. have nothing new to report. No announcement about a website administrator is needed. Jim Wilkinson, founder of Green Mountain SAF passed away. Dave Stevens will do a write-up. An article on Jim Wilkenson's legacy could also be produced for the News Quarterly. Howard Mason from the Massachusetts Chapter and Wilf Creighton also passed away. The NYSAF chair was wondering if he could get the News Quarterly. Mariann J. will email his name and contact information to Scott and Margaret M.

State Reports (NESAF State Representatives):

RI - Paul D: The RI Chapter met a week ago and discussed having internal elections rather than ballots. A discussion on walk in the woods is done in October. The Champion Tree program and forestry fund grant paperwork are coming along.

CT - JP B: There was an SAF display at the Connecticut agricultural plant science day, which was attended by 800 visitors. The fall foliage report identified widespread anthracnose affecting sugar maple.

ME - Spencer M: The Maine Forest Service has released a Centennial issue of the publication "Forest Trees of Maine." Working Forest conservation paper is in its final phase. A student guidebook is being prepared, reducing deer accidents along I-95. Three small, geographically specific tours were held at the spring field meetings. One of these, taking a new look at biomass harvesting was held the last week of May. Another looked at forest management perspectives (landowner, easement holder and a multi-use recreation business) within conservation easements of Katahdin Forest Management. Lunch for this event included a riverside BBQ, normally served on a day -long raft trip. So far is seems that smaller tours work out well. The last offer will be a look at nature based tourism in the Bigelow preserve and the Maine Western Mountains new hut-to-hut system. The fall meeting is October 14 at UMAINE. The Millinocket mill (Frasier) is closing. Old Town mill may be shutting down (Red Shield Energy) or converting to a bio-refinery. There was a wood exposition in Portland last month. Project Learning tree and Maine SAF secured a Department of Energy grant for \$77K to integrate forestry into the high school curriculum.

NH - Andy F. read a report from Peter H: 1) The litigation between the USFS and the Sierra Club-Wilderness Society over the roadless areas in the Than and Batchelder Brook timber sale was decided in favor to the USFS. As a result the USFS will be moving forward on the sales in question. The appellants filed for a stay on the decision and were denied. It appears they will appeal to a higher court, this time in Boston. However at this time that hasn't happened. The Than and Batchelder Brook sales are being harvested as we speak. Stand-by for further updates.

2) GSD winter meeting will be 2/13/2009, tentatively at Waterville Valley.

3) Work has already started on the 2010 NESAF meeting to be hosted by GSD. The committee is being formed, theme topics being bandied about as well as locations.

4) The GSD committee working on the guide book met again this month. They are editing the guide at this point.

5) GSD missed getting all the candidates in line for the electronic balloting this fall. Thus the GSD elections will take place by paper ballot. We'll try harder next year.

 $\,$  361  $\,$  6) The next issue of the GSD Newsletter is due out in October.

7) GSD is working on a slate of award packets for NESAF.

8) SAF accreditation of the Thompson School/UNH forestry programs was a success. The Thompson School is the first technical school to be accredited by SAF. There were concerns about the low enrollment, student recruitment, and the need for increased staffing levels.

369 9) ENERGY: There is a biomass plant in Henniker (20 Megawatt) that is being proposed and is having a great deal of opposition.

10) GSD has signed the new MOA with the Tree Farm Program in New Hampshire.

374 11) WORKSHOPS: 9/19, Research to NH Forests at Fox Forest. In December, Forest Health, date and time to be announced.

12) Phil Bryce is leaving the State Forester position to take the reins of Fountain Forestry around the end of September. A search is on for his replacement.

13) The 19th annual Tree Farm Field Day is 9/27 at the Andorra Forest in Stoddard, NH.

VT - Ed O'L: 84,000 acres formerly owned by Champion were sold to Essex and are now being sold to Plum Creek. The existing easement allows the 84,000 acres to be subdivided in 4 parcels, but Plum Creek plans to keep it intact as one unit.

There is a Vermont state law that stipulates if revenue projections decrease by more than 1% per quarter the state budget is reduced. As a result, Vermont Forests and Parks are down 4 positions. Overall Vermont state government is trying to remove 400 positions.

 GMD summer meeting is September  $25^{th}$ . There will likely be a field session with Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department on implementing the wildlife action plan.

GMD membership is soliciting donations from members to defray the costs of student SAF memberships.

The Governor has established a program "wood warms" that makes firewood available to the public. 500 cords harvested off state land have been sent to a concentration yard. The public can pay 5 dollars a cord for a 5 cord lot where the public cuts their own wood.

Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park is being recognized for it forest management.

MA - Randy S: Randy S. spoke with Chris Prior who put in a nomination for state chapter chair. Randy S. expects more participation at the chapter level. Applications need to be in by September 16 for a vacant wildlife-forestry position.

There are two big items at the state level. In August, Asian Longhorn Beetle was confirmed in Worchester County. The USDA issued a quarantine and sent letters to 1000 businesses involved in outdoor work in the region. An area is designated for disposal of infected trees. State and Federal teams are looking for additional infected sites. It is not known how the expensive response is going to be paid for. All potential host trees within a quarter mile of know infestations will be chipped or burned. The beetle was present since 1997 so it appears there has been an infestation in the area for over ten years.

Another thing that came up at a Massachusetts DCR stewardship meeting was a moratorium on timber harvests on all DCR lands for 90 days starting retroactively from July 1. It will give the chair of the stewardship council an opportunity to look at the bigger picture of forestry on state property.

416	SAF Council Report (Roger D.): (not present).
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418	Canada - Don Floyd: (not present)
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420	Chair Potpourri (Frame): Ron L. had no additional items to discuss.
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422	Other items for the good of the order: EC members had no additional comments.
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425	Calendar: The NESAF EC will next meet on December 10 <sup>th</sup> , 9:30am-3:00pm at SPNHF offices in
426	Concord, New Hampshire.
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428	A motion to adjourn was heard from Paul D. A second was heard from Larry R. The question was called and
429	the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.
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431	Respectfully submitted,
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433	Andrew Fast, Secretary