

**2020 MESAF Fall Meeting
Business Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2020
Zoom Meeting**

*Draft approved for posting by Executive Committee on November 4, 2020
Final approval will be by membership at 2021 Annual Business Meeting in fall 2021*

Chair, Carol Redelsheimer called the meeting to order at 8:00 am with an anti-trust statement.

MESAF has 258 members and 13 are needed for a quorum. When the meeting began we had 20 members online. The business meeting agenda, 2019 minutes and Treasurer's Report/2021 Budget were available for download on the MESAF website prior to the meeting.

In Memoriam

We remembered the following individuals who passed away since our last business meeting: Benjamin Hoffman, Frank Beal and David Brooks. We observed a moment of silence.

2019 Business Meeting Minutes

Tony Filauro motioned to accept the minutes as presented, Nicole Rogers 2nd. Show of hands on screen. None opposed. Motion passed.

Bylaws Briefing

Jake Metzler explained the reasoning for updating the NESAF bylaws. Carol explained that MESAF wants to add a separate Secretary position to encourage additional members to become involved, beginning with a fairly simple job.

Election Briefing

Carol mentioned the upcoming election and encouraged everyone to vote.

Division Manager/Communications Coordinator Status

Carol is negotiating a contract for a new Division Manager, Logan Johnson. Logan will begin the position on January 1, 2021. Maggie Mansfield has agreed to be the Communications Coordinator, replacing long-serving Tony Filauro.

Treasurer's Report for 2020

Bill Livingston showed the report on the screen. We received some 2109 dues in 2020, which gave us an income bump. The 2020 Envirothon was not held and our funds were not spent. The MESAF Student Chapter Award was given to Trevor Jones. We received \$1800 from the 2019 Fall Meeting registrations. The one field tour we had in 2020 and earned \$774, which is ~\$300 less than the budgeted amount.

The Division Manager stipend is \$2400 annually. We reduced our website expenses by jumping on NESAF's website. The Adopt-a-Student funds from last year will go toward the 2021 NESAF meeting. Bill set aside \$600 for 2020 Fall Meeting on-site to virtual refunds.

In 2020 we currently have \$15,228.11 in expenses and an ending balance of \$8402.70.

Ron Lemin motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, Wil Mercier 2nd. Show of hands, motion passed.

2021 Budget

We expect \$1800 in dues revenue and \$1900 in Fall Meeting revenue. We plan to have three field tours.

For expenses, we did not donate to Maine TREE in 2020, but we plan a \$1500 donation in 2021. We expect \$500 in Service Awards and \$600 for the Student Chapter Award. The Division Manager stipend is \$2400, we need to pay out our Adopt-a-Student donations of \$1260 and the 1st year student chapter dues of \$1000. Our ending balance is expected to be \$4000.

Jake Metzler asked about the 1st year student member payments. Bill has not paid any yet this fall.

Tony Filauro noted that the income estimated from field tours could drop off due to the economy.

Carol noted that there are currently 258 MESAF members. Of these, 24 are Golden Members who do not pay any dues (to national or our division). 42 are students who do not pay Division dues and there are 19 members in transit from student to professional. It is not clear what dues they pay. Currently there are 192 Maine members paying dues to the division, at \$10 each, that is \$1920.

Jake M. mentioned that NESAF and the divisions may see ~\$2000 from the national convention this year. Wil Mercier noted that this virtual Fall Meeting income is good, since there is no food expense.

Ken Laustsen motioned to accept the proposed MESAF 2021 budget as presented, Jake Metzler 2nd. Show of hands. Motion passed.

Jake Metzler noted that the 2021 NESAF meeting will be hosted by the Yankee Division. They have a Plan B if it cannot be held in person. The 2022 NESAF meeting will be hosted by Maine, in Portland.

Dues Discussion

As Carol noted earlier, we have ~190 members paying division dues, totaling \$1900. Our other income is all "soft" money, which is based on meeting income. She is concerned that our current dues income does not cover the Division Manager stipend. If we opt for a dues increase, it would not affect most members until the 2022 dues invoices in the fall of 2021, since most memberships run January 1—December 31 and the invoices for 2021 are going out now. Our last dues increase of \$5 was voted on in 2016. We must decide now if we want an increase in revenue for 2022. Our current bylaws state that a dues increase can be proposed by the Executive Committee and approved by those voting at the meeting. Kyle Burdick suggested raising our dues to keep up with inflation and reviewing them annually. Jake Metzler noted that a \$5 increase would yield an additional ~\$1000 in revenue. Barrie Brusila felt that a \$1-\$5 increase is not unreasonable. Several members expressed similar opinions in the chat.

Tony Filauro motioned to increase the Maine Division dues from \$10 to \$15, effective January 1, 2021. Ron Lemin 2nd.

Show of hands. Motion passed. We won't see the majority of the increase until 2022.

Member Retention

Tony Filauro suggested contacting landowners to encourage SAF membership among their employees. There has been no discussion at the Division level. Jake Metzler received a "lapsed member" list and he personally contacted many on the list. Some have recently retired, and they don't feel membership is important anymore. Some non-members mentioned to Jake that their employer does not cover SAF dues, but they will pay to attend meetings at the non-member rate, so they feel no need to join. Kyle Burdick feels we should ask what people want from their professional society.

NESAF Update

Karl Honkonen reported that NESAF is updating its Operating Manual.

UMFK and UMaine Program Updates

Nicole Rogers from UMFK reported that classes are in-person and all students are back on campus. There are four freshmen in the program this year and 15 total. There is interest in their new degree— AS in Forestry and a BS in Conservation Law. This attracts students who want to join the Warden Service. Nicole noted that they are missing women in their program.

Bill Livingston noted that at UMaine, there are fewer new students this year. The COVID restrictions have negatively impacted enrollment. There are 13 new students (half of last year) and 83 total in the program. Graduation rates are good. The Master of Forestry program is looking good, with 18-20 students. Faculty changes—Mindy Crandall left in 2019, Pascal Berrill left the silviculture position after one year in June 2020 and Louis Morin is taking a phased retirement. COVID has caused the field experiences to be cancelled since they can't use group transportation. The School gave out

\$400,000 in scholarships to 100 students and they have 68 graduate students.

National Convention Virtual Auction

The auction revenues benefit the Foresters' Fund and the Science Fund. Ron Lemin is the Chair for the Virtual Auction this year. He currently has 40 items and would like to have 50-60 total. If anyone would like to donate, please plan to ship the item directly to the winning bidder. Contact Ron if you would like to donate an item. The auction will open one week before the convention.

People can participate in the auction without registering for the meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 AM. There were ~40 people present.

Submitted by

Laura Audibert, Division Manager