New England Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee (EC) Meeting
Thursday, September 15, 2005
New Hampshire Division of Lands, Urban Forestry Center, 45 Elwyn Rd, Portsmouth, NH

Members and guests in attendance:

1. Paul Dolan    Rhode Island State Rep
2. George Frame  Vice Chair
3. J Peter Howland  New Hampshire State Rep & Nominations/Teller Committee
4. Laura Kenefic  Forest Science Coordinator
5. Anne-Marie Kittredge Massachusetts State Rep
6. Leo Laferriere  Council Rep
7. Kenneth M Laustsen  Chair
8. Edward D O’Leary Vermont State Rep
9. Ronald C Lemin Jr Maine State Rep
10. Larry Rousseau  Treasurer
11. Raymond J Toolan  Secretary
12. Bradford Wyman  NESAF News Quarterly Editor
13. Charles Thompson  presented first thing in the morning

Members not in attendance:

24. Tom Degnan    Connecticut State Rep
25. Tom O’Shea    Immediate Past Chair

Meeting opened at: 0934 by Chair Ken L

1. Standard items:

   Sign in sheet (Toolan) – verify content information:

   Welcome: guest Charlie Thompson

   Antitrust statement: covered by chair Ken L

   Add/Adjust agenda: none noted at this point.

   Corrections/Additions for the June 2, 2005 EC Minutes (Toolan): motion to approve

   Brad W moves to accept as written, second by Laura K. Moved and passed unanimously

   [Move to item 2 at this point. Larry R is not here at this time]

   Treasurers Report (Rousseau) – motion to approve.
Larry points out that the Key Bank is now charging for everything. Larry R will check on some other banks to see if there are any with no charges or less. There is some discussion around the possible difficulty in opening new accounts under the homeland security measures. Larry R hands out the “Net Worth Statement”. He goes over some of the particulars. Larry R is still waiting for bill from Lindsey S for her time. This is a big unknown. George will talk to Lindsey to see what the deal is. Our share from the Maine meeting has been deposited. Leo had some questions about the amount of the CDs. Leo L: “We need to maintain whatever was designated in 1995”. Motion to accept Treasurers report as presented, Brad W, second from Peter H. Called and passed unanimously.

2. NESAF Publications – Update (Charles Thompson):

Charlie hands out various publications produced by SAF. [Larry R arrives at this point]. The question is if there is sufficient interest to re-do any of these publications. Charlie goes over particulars of the different publications, mostly around their history. Charlie goes over the various issues around the mechanics of getting the publications redone: cost, time, interest, etc. There is some discussion around the pros and cons. George would like to see these publications maintained and updated. Brad feels that the current membership doesn’t really care but if we don’t keep it up it will be lost to those who are interested. Brad offers that he has at his house a lot of history. George indicates that various chapters also have bits and pieces of history recorded. There is a fair bit of discussion on this. Laura K likes the history but would like to see the material condensed to the important elements. Anne-Marie would like to see our history continued in print. There is some discussion on how this might be done, by intern, committee or some combination. There is some discussion around how we obtain the information to update the existing documents as well as if the existing documents are complete up to the date they were last updated. Ed O indicates that Maryland is already updating their history. There are two specific documents involved in this discussion: “History of the New England Section, Society of American Foresters” and “A Half Century of Forestry”. Consensus appears that we should update but the question is how and what we want in these documents. George F makes the motion: “We support Charlie Thompson in bringing together a committee to assist in bringing the historical documents (see above) up to date. Charlie will bring a proposal back to NESAF”. Second from Ed O [Paul Dolan arrived at this point] Some more discussion. Motion called and passed unanimously.

[Return to Treasurers report above]

3. Results of NESAF Referendum on SAF VOS-TF Report Recommendations

All items passed with large margins. Ken L is disappointed by low turnout (20%). Ken L will report as shown by the results of the vote. [Ron Lemin arrived at this point]. There is some discussion around those results. Ken will report tomorrow. We are the only state society who held a referendum. Ken was surprised
on item 1 as there had been much verbal dissent. There is more discussion. Leo raises the issue of “clear mandate”. Is 20% a clear mandate? Individual comment period ends on November 9, 2005.

[10 minute break at this point]

4. Standing Committee Reports

Nominations and Elections: Offices up for election.
   i. State Representatives (Connecticut, New Hampshire and Rhode Island)
   ii. Secretary
   iii. Treasurer

Paul D points out that he sent out three notices and Ken sent one out himself. The list of candidates is not overwhelming. We have a ballot, we have the bios and we are ready to go. Lindsey will be tasked with getting the ballots out. There is some discussion on the particulars. It will be out by October 15th. Ballots need to be returned by November 15th. Bills for 2004 elections have been finalized and dealt with. Can we still get candidates in? Paul D, yes. Treasurer, New Hampshire and Connecticut have no second candidates at this time. Ken L brings up the issue of the Canadian rep. It appears that the Canadian Rep has not been to an EC meeting in at least 16 years. There is more discussion around the membership of Canadian foresters. There is a question of dues. Laura suggests we leave the Canadian rep position blank as there has not been an election. Leo asks if state chapters allow person running for consecutive terms. He allows that in Vermont there is only one term for at least Chair. Ed O’Leary will check on the particulars at the GMD tomorrow.

Forest Science and Technology (Kenefic) – working groups, News Quarterly Themes

Working groups: hard to maintain positive energy.

Resources Measurement: No one showed up at last meeting other than Ken L. who is the acting chair.

Forestry Systems – acting chair Merv Stevens - is pretty much inactive.

Ecology -Mark Ashton was still the elected chair but this year he resigned. Currently there is no chair.

Management and Utilization -John Bressette is chair and seems to be working okay. This group is quite active.

Decision Sciences was Paul Sendak but turned over to Don Dennis. Going okay. This is an active group.

Social Sciences – elected chair is Jim Harding. This group is active.
Laura asks for input. [note: acting chairs have been appointed by Forest Science Coordinator and should be holding an election at their annual business meeting]. Working groups were not able to put together technical sessions for upcoming NESAF annual meeting. There is an apparent breakdown in communications about setting up working sessions. Laura goes over some of the difficulties encountered with the working groups. Currently has a group of disgruntled working group chairs. It appears that the planning committee has its sessions set up and did not need or feel it needed the work done by most of the working groups. Brad W suggests some better coordination between the program chair and working groups for 2007 meeting in VT. There is more discussion. George F goes over some the issues around the upcoming NESAF meeting in NH (2006) and why the program chair did not use the working groups more. There is a fair bit of discussion around the difficulties that have historically occurred between program chairs and working groups as well as in keeping working groups active and interested. It seems to be the consensus that it is not too late for the working groups to participate in the program for 2006. Anne-Marie points out we “need to fix the Bible”. There is a program meeting next Thursday (9/22). Ken L asks if he may attend. Diedre Raimo is the program chair for 2006.

Theme for Quarterly – Forest Reserves. We have contributions. Laura lists them off. We are in good shape for this theme. There is a question about promoting non-profits in the Quarterly within the space allocated for theme material. There is discussion around the mechanics of getting material through Laura to Brad. Brad would like to see an editorial committee. Ken L volunteers to serve on such a committee. Laura is concerned that the material should be an article and not appear as a promotional brochure for any particular organization. There is more discussion. Ken L supports an “oversight” committee which is what Brad has asked for. This issue seems to garner a lot of general discussion. Brad, wants names from each state. Laura has a system she has been using but does not have a set network. She supports the idea of having a “fixed” person in each state. Volunteers for the committee are Larry R (CT), Ken L (ME), Ed O (VT), Paul D (RI) and Anne-Marie (MA). Brad suggest Laura simply e-mail to the entire EC for ideas/material. Invasive plants is an upcoming topic.

Membership (Lemin)

Ron L is just getting back in circulation after a tough summer, professionally. He mentions the use of different rates for events for members and non-members as is being used in Maine. Students get a discount. Membership numbers have decreased at about 5% over the last couple of years. We are seeing the same people as volunteers so there is some stagnation in this area. There is some discussion especially around involving new people in the volunteer positions. The issue is raised as to potential members and what we see of value in joining SAF. Ken L mentions purged figures.
[break for lunch at 1204]
[reconvene at 1245]

NESAF Website – Design (Laustsen) and job postings (Frame)

Ken L got hold of Jim Ohler [web master]. Site was down as the bill (submitted to Tom O'Shea) was not paid. This issue has been dealt with as bills now go to Larry R.

George F – question of employment ads. We have a format that should work. At this time if there is an employment ad that applies to forestry we will put it up for 30 days without cost. There is a process that George would like to have in the Quarterly. George goes over particulars. There is some discussion around the issue of appropriateness. We need to see who responds to the service before we try to fine tune the service.

Ken L – two years ago we allocated money to an outside entity to put together a working website for NESAF. Jim has been responsive to getting stuff up there. “The redesign sort of got lost”. Jim will work on the redesign with Ken L. What do we want on the website. Laura reminds Ken L that the working groups wanted a page on the site with possibly a list-serve or similar forum. Input needs to go to Ken L. Laura will re-send material she had originally sent to Tom O. Digital photos are wanted/needed. Jim will be at our December meeting. One item is an “events calendar”. There is some discussion around ideas. George wrote down a list while Ken talked/listened: Main Buttons to include; NESAF Quarterly, Working Groups, Grant Opportunities, Awards, Policy Statements, Membership Statistics, Upcoming events, Contact information, Contact List, Related Links and Winter Meeting information. There was the question of registering for NESAF meeting on line. Additional ideas: opportunities to serve, process of nominating and running for offices, link membership applications to National and/or have a form on the NESAF site.

Grants (Degnan)

Tom D is not present.

Ken L goes over the grant project done in Maine around membership survey. A copy of the report is passed around. Some of the particulars are discussed. This spins off a brief discussion on why people do not join. Ken L feels we got our money’s worth out of this grant project.

Awards (Kittredge)

Call for nominations will be put in upcoming Quarterly. Ken L does have the five prints for the Integrity Award. We have old applications but they
really need to be updated. Some effort was made to do this last year. Status of this aspect is unknown. Anne-Marie asks about who may be on er committee. She is advised that the voting must be done by the stat reps. This is some discussion around the “backlog” of nominees. Who has the paperwork? Rob Rizzo is suggested. **Anne-Marie will check with Rob R.** Suggestion is made to place a time limit on nominations.

Policy (Howland)

Policy items has been submitted to web-site. Ken L mentions GMD position statements. Most were updated but the one on the FRAC issue needs to be updated.

5. State Reports (NESAF State Representatives)

RI – Paul D – Walk in the Woods is being done again. 100th anniversary of state forestry is coming up. Forest Expo is being worked on.

MA – Anne-Marie K – nothing to report

NH – Peter H – reinstate student program. There is concerns that the redistricting (National) will have an adverse financial effect on them.

ME – Ron L – last state meeting was last Monday. Ron L missed it. They sent two individuals to the Leadership Academy. Bob Chandler has just about finished report on grant. A meeting is coming up around the clear-cutting issues in Maine. Several people are running for chair and other positions of Maine chapter. Working on a few awards candidate for each award.

VT – Ed O – Ed missed the last GMD meeting. Tomorrow is summer meeting on Vermont Monitoring Cooperative. Project Learning Tree is not an SAF program. There has been money allocated to PLC for training school teachers. Budget will cover 25 teachers, last weekend in October. VT, NH, MA, ME and RI are involved. Next Walk in the Forest will include Tree Farm and Vermont Woodlands Owners to increase interest and material.

CT – Larry R – also doing a Walk in the Woods program.

Ken L: State societies are asked to provide items for the auction to benefit the Forester Fund for National meeting. There is a contest around this effort.

6. NESAF Operations Manual (Frame)

George F keeps adding to the list of things that need to be explained. He would like to add a section around preparing for the planning the budget. He would like to see a bit more planning on possible budget items. The issue of the internet items is raised. We need to codify procedures for the website.
Ken L asked George to list them out and send them around to everyone for input. George agreed he could do that and would. Ed visits the idea of the Quarterly editorial board. Also he touches on an official contact with webmaster. Present officers should be suggesting items. Should there be a financial committee? There is a question about fund-raising to supplement dues as a source of income. What sort of archives do we/should we be keeping? Laura mentions that there does not appear to be anything on the Forest Science Coordinator. Laura’s version was blank and Ed Os copy ad a section on this.

7. HSD Update (Laustsen) and action items (Frame)

George F will be voting delegate at HSD and Ken L is involved elsewhere. Tom D submitted an issue to go to HSD and Ken edited it and sent it forward. Ken L wants a motion to support the member’s right to choose any one of the four national publications in place of the Journal. Paul D makes a motion. Larry R seconds. Motion called and passed unanimously. Other issues were around a discount for students and another around graduated dues over time rather than big step increases.

8. 2006 Winter Meeting Update (Howland)

Committee is meeting next week. Nothing else new at this time. Working group issue will be brought up. April 4, 5 and 6 are the dates. Brad asks if an advance piece in the Quarterly should be put in. Peter H suggests Brad talk to General Chair.

Ken L has been e-mailing with NYS Chair around possible joint meeting. Idea of a fifth year meeting at NYS was mentioned again. Ken L wants some input. There is some discussion. We may want to try it once before committing to a long term plan. There is some discussion around the monetary input from the annual meeting which goes to the host state society. There is a concern that state societies may lose needed income.

Maybe we could be invited to one of theirs without impacting our normal cycle. Maybe piggyback joint meeting on Yankee?

9. NESAF News Quarterly (Wyman)

Brad W has a question on possible change of organizational structure. When might it happen if it does? October 2006 would be the soonest it could go to the members for a vote. Jan 2007 would be the earliest that actual change could take place. We could maintain NESAF as well as being part of the four state regional chapter. Can we find enough people to fill the new layer or do we dissolve NESAF? There is some general discussion around what will become of the News Quarterly if the regional model become reality. Issue of non SAF member obits. The consensus was we would leave it to Brad’s
editorial discretion with an eye toward serving the interest of the members.
Some discussion of what is due to Brad for next issue from the Chair. Ken will
do a piece including a little history and the facts about low response to the
referendum.

10. SAF Council Report (Laferriere)

Council has not met since last meeting. June meeting was scrubbed due
to anticipated expense. They will be doing a lot of catch-up at National
convention. Leo is half way through his term. Not much to report largely due
to the problem of things moving very slowly. The Fellows election process
created a problem for NH as only one person per chapter may be nominated.
Leo voted against this restriction. Brad wants to do an article on this issue.
Another issue is the ethics code and bylaws. We have lost members over this
issue. Some effort has been made to work with other professional
organizations such as the Consulting Foresters organization. Leo feels this is
moving way too slowly. Financially SAF is being managed quite well according
to Leo L. The budget is break even without convention income factored in.
Leo will make the push to have some of the convention profits to go into the
Forester Fund. There is work around SAF investments. Monies to be moved
from mutual fund /equities into the bond market so as to produce a
predictable annual income. Leo feels that the Investment Committee is not
looking out for best interests of organizations resources. SAF should not be in
a position where it cannot deliver on a program (referring to Forester Fund
issue). Brad W wants to know what the policy is on spending money from the
current investments. Decisions are made on a five year rolling basis. Decision
is made by Financial Committee with input from Investment Committee.
Overall Leo L feels that everyone at Bethesda are working very hard as well
as the Council and HSD. Council members are all on their own nickel this year
for getting to National Convention as a cost saving measure. This may create
barriers for some to be involved in Council. Brad W disagrees with idea of
putting money in the bond market (such as CDs) due to low return on
investments. Leo is thinking he would put part in the bond market and part
into equities.

Laura K would like to have the subject of women and minorities brought
up as she feels ts is a real issue in SAF at a National level.

Ken asks for a motion to allow him to get reimbursed for is trip to
Vermont tomorrow. Motion so made by Paul D. second by Ron L. Motion
called and passed unanimously.

Leo L relates that Oregon has a “Tough Tree” award which is very similar
to our Integrity Award. Leo would like to see a National award of this sort.
They may call this award he Bristlecone Pine Award. Leo proposed it and the
Committee shot t down.
11. Adjourn

Next scheduled meeting is – December 7\textsuperscript{th} at SPNHF, Concord, NH at 9:30am

The Chair will send a Thank You to the facility.

Motion to adjourn. George F made the motion and Ed O made the second. Motion called and passed unanimously at 1509.