

# Minutes Approved 1/23/07



## New England Society of American Foresters

### Executive Committee (EC) Meeting

December 6, 2006

At the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, Concord, NH

#### Members present:

Paul Dolan	Rhode Island State Representative
George Frame	Vice-Chair
J Peter Howland	New Hampshire State Representative; Policy Committee Chair
Mariann Johnston	Website Editor
Laura Kenefic	Forest Science Coordinator
Anne Marie Kittredge	Secretary, Massachusetts State Representative, Awards Chair
Leo Laferriere	Council Representative
Ken Laustsen	Chair
Ron Lemin Jr.	Maine State Representative
Spencer Meyer	Maine State Representative (for the 2007-2009 term)
Ed O'Leary	Vermont State Representative
Larry Rousseau	Treasurer
Randy Stone	Massachusetts State Representative (for the 2007-9 term)
Brad Wyman	NESAF News Quarterly Editor

**Guests:** None

#### Members not present:

Tom Degnan	Connecticut State Representative
Tom O'Shea	Immediate Past Chair

**Meeting opened by Chair Ken L. at 0935**

#### 1. Standard items:

**Sign in sheet (Kittredge) - verify contact information:** The standard sign-in sheet, a national sign-in sheet and a modified agenda were circulated.

**Welcome:** Ken L. welcomed all. Present members introduced themselves to new members, Randy Stone and Spencer Meyer.

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

**Add/Adjust agenda:** No additions were suggested to the modified agenda

**Corrections/Additions for the September 20, 2006 meeting minutes (Kittredge):** No new corrections were suggested. *Motion from Paul D. to accept the meeting minutes; second from Pete H. Motion passed with one abstention.*

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42 **Treasurer's report (Rousseau):** Larry R. distributed the NESAF accounts' balance as of 12/06/06 and  
43 itemized a few updates. NESAF grants funds available = \$440.06. Closed one Key Bank account and opened  
44 another. **Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report from George F.; Second from Ron L. Motion passed**  
45 **unanimously.**

- 46 i. Reimbursement of \$320.39 to MESAF for completion of Forestry Awareness Project  
47 funded by SAF Foresters Fund was discussed. Larry reported that no check has been  
48 received for this from the National Office.
- 49 ii. Year-end Stipends were discussed and distributed. These minutes reflect that Mariann  
50 Johnston will receive a \$599 stipend at the end of each year (including the end of 2006).  
51 While this was the EC's intent during previous discussions, this was not clear in the EC  
52 minutes and motion from June 2006 EC Minutes (lines 60-61).  
53

54 **2. NESAF History Project (Thompson):** Charlie Thompson could not attend the EC meeting due to a car  
55 accident. Ken received a Fax from Charlie T. and reports that the project is moving forward and will  
56 document the last 30 plus years of the state society and will follow the 1<sup>st</sup> 50 year summaries that exist.  
57 This project is behind schedule and will not be ready for the Winter Meeting as projected earlier. Brad has  
58 information for the appendices and some gaps in information that he will share with Charlie. Charlie's FAX  
59 suggests 3 items: (1) small committee formation with responsibilities for layout, publicity and a few other  
60 narrow responsibilities. **Brad W. made a motion to create this committee and Larry R. seconded the motion.**  
61 **The motion passed unanimously.** (2) The EC will identify 3-5 volunteers to serve on this committee. The  
62 **following EC members volunteered to serve: Paul Dolan, Ed O'Leary, Ken Laustsen, Brad Wyman, Charlie**  
63 **Thompson, [Chris Modisette was volunteered by Paul D.].** It was noted that Karen Bennett recently  
64 documented the NH history through 2002. It should be easier to finish the last few years of NH. (3) **Ken L.**  
65 **will write a letter to the National Office (and copy Roger) about this project.**  
66

### 67 **3. Standing Committee reports:**

68

69 **Nominations and Election (Dolan):** The results of this fall's election follows: Vice Chair: Ron Lemin,  
70 Eastern Canada Representative: N/A, MA State Representative: Randy Stone, ME State Representative:  
71 Spencer Meyer, VT State Representative: Ed O'Leary. Chris Modisette and Paul Dolan prepared the election  
72 materials. NH-TOA collated the mailing. Paul D. thanked George F. for the assistance. The EC thanked Paul D.  
73 for shepherding the election process. Ken discussed the close nature of the National elections where all  
74 referendum articles passed.  
75

### 76 **Policy (Howland):**

- 77 i. Action on 3 NESAF Policy Positions (expiring 12/2/2006): Pete H. brought  
78 recommendations to the EC relative to the need to review, revise, renew or terminate  
79 these 3 NESAF Policy Positions including: (1) Wilderness Designation in New England -was  
80 discussed again in much detail. There was some concern that this was moot point due to  
81 the recent Congressional action. **George F. moved that Pete H. continue to edit the**  
82 **Wilderness Policy for subsequent EC meetings by re-orienting the policy statement toward**  
83 **emphasis of the process that should be followed in the future. Second from Ed O. and**  
84 **unanimously approved. .... (2) Local Regulation of Forest Practices - Brad moved that the**  
85 **EC renew this position statement with no changes except for the expiration date. Anne**  
86 **Marie K. seconded the motion which passed unanimously. (3) Total minimum Daily Loads**  
87 **(TMDL) will be allowed to expire for now.**
- 88 ii. Development of a new "Global Climate Change" Policy Position: Brad W. noted that no  
89 National Policy statement exists on climate change. Perhaps NESAF should develop one.

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90 Discussion continued relative to progress in NH and ME relative to carbon coalitions and  
91 the need for carbon reductions. Forests should be linked to these statements. The  
92 benefits of white papers versus position statements were discussed and because a process  
93 exists for positions statements, the EC favored this form of statement; however the  
94 creation of a white paper could help the profession in the long run. Brad W. will work with  
95 Pete H. on a policy statement and Ken L. will assist with this draft before the next  
96 meeting. Sustainable forestry, sequestration, climate change will be the focus. Brad W.  
97 Pete H. and Ken L. will invite the new forest science coordinator to participate.  
98

99 **Membership (Lemin):** Ron L. reviewed the National summary of membership trends. NESAF  
100 membership numbers are down 25 members for the year. SAF does recruit new members -however the  
101 retention of new members is poor.

- 102 i. Discussion of proposed SAF changes: The National Office is considering 3 proposed new  
103 membership categories as strategies to increase and maintain members. A good discussion  
104 of the proposed new rates and categories followed. The State societies are still discussing  
105 the proposed changes in categories. Vermont already discussed the proposal and can live  
106 with the changes. Ken is still looking for feedback so that NESAF can come back with a  
107 response for National office by March. Ron requested a statement from each other state  
108 society before the NESAF EC January meeting (not NH or Yankee). Ken participated in one  
109 of the 3 National Conference calls relative to membership value and he sent a bulleted  
110 summary E-mail to the EC.  
111

112 **Forest Science Coordinator (Kenefic):** Laura's resignation as Forest Science Coordinator will  
113 become effective 12/31/06. New candidate names were discussed again. A great deal of discussion and  
114 genuine disagreement continued about the possibility of offering a stipend to the new Forest Science  
115 Coordinator. Anne Marie K. made a motion that the EC provide \$250 per year to the Forest Science  
116 Coordinator stipend because these duties exceed those of many other EC members excepting of course  
117 those EC members who already receive a stipend for the same reasons. Ed O. seconded the motion. The vote  
118 was split. 8 voted for the motion and 4 voted against the motion with 1 abstention. The motion carried. Ken  
119 L. holds that list of names and agreed to make some contacts.

120 **Working Groups:** The working groups are integrated into the technical sessions and the working group  
121 business meetings are scheduled at the 2007 winter meeting. The Posters will be handled locally again this  
122 year. The new Web Site has all working group information and this is a success. Poster chairs and working  
123 group chairs will continue to contact Laura K. Laura K. will forward all correspondence received after her  
124 term ends to George F., unless a new Forest Science Coordinator is in place.

125 The NQ themes are on track with many new ideas generated at this EC meeting. The next (January)  
126 issue theme will be "Urban Forestry".  
127

128 **NESAF Website (Johnston):** The new website is very much approved by the EC. The state  
129 representative will receive a reminder (from Mariann) to add new information to the NESAF Web Site. The  
130 winter meeting agenda has been posted. Additional links and information can be added as they become  
131 available. Brad W. will bury a random SAF member number from last year's attendees list into the website  
132 and this person might get a free Winter Meeting registration. The "calendar idea" has resurfaced with a new  
133 version which is available for \$29.99. Brad W. moved to purchase this software and Paul D. seconded the  
134 motion which was unanimously approved.  
135 Mariann J. will remove the bio-sketch information for the elections and replace it with the election results.  
136 Likewise the Officers Page will change in January.

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- 137 i. Affiliate Website Links: Anne Marie K. has a NESAF list of organizations that she will E-  
138 mail to Mariann. Mariann will use this list as a starter-list for links to other natural  
139 resource organizations.  
140

141 **Grants (Degnan):** Currently, there are limited funds exist for grants (\$440.0). Tom has not received  
142 and does not expect any grant proposals or inquiries in the near future.  
143

### 144 **Awards (Kittredge):**

- 145 i. Nominations for all award categories have been solicited through the NQ, website and for  
146 the Integrity in Conservation Award by direct mail to conservation organizations. One  
147 nomination has been received to date. Ken L. reminds the EC that Brad W. has recently  
148 been selected as a fellow (1 of 30 nationally) and the EC congratulates Brad.  
149

150 **4. Budget (Rousseau):** Draft 1 of the Budget was distributed.. Larry will add the Forest Science  
151 Coordinator stipend to the budget as well as the Web Site Administrator stipend. Dues are down \$500 so  
152 the income is down a corresponding \$500. The EC reviewed the operations budget to look for changes. The  
153 EC will leave the Leadership Academy line item in the budget for 2008 and zero it out for 2007 (there will be  
154 no national leadership academy in 2007). Brad will check on next years anticipated printing costs. The grants  
155 \$440 will roll over to next year. The EC will increase the travel budget to HSD from \$4000 to \$4500  
156

157 **5. NESAF Operational Manual (Frame)** *George F. continues to work on the Manual. George will try to*  
158 *resend the manual to the EC soon. If he runs into difficulty, George will e-mail it to Mariann J. and she will*  
159 *create a hidden link for the EC to use to download the manual from the Web Site.*  
160

161 **6. 2007 Winter Meeting (O'Leary):** The most recent agenda was available for the EC to review. Committee  
162 leaders are making progress. Russ Reay - General Chair; Ed O'Leary - Facility Chair; Mark Twery - Program  
163 Chair; Bob Burt - Finance Chair; Leo Laferriere - Public Information Chair; Barb Burns - Entertainment  
164 Chair. Theme: "Cycles of Forestry" The 2007 Winter Meeting is scheduled for March 21-23, 2007 at Lake  
165 Morey Resort, Fairlee, VT. The Program Committee met on Sept 29<sup>th</sup> and December 5<sup>th</sup> at the site.  
166 The final meeting of the entire committees is December 13, 2006. Everything is proceeding well.

167 **NESAF/CF Exhibit;** Ken will exhibit at the Winter Meeting. He will present the CF program and the  
168 NESAF Web Site in an interactive live format

169 **2008 Joint NE/NY Meeting - status:** this project is still moving forward. No location has been  
170 determined yet, however the Saratoga Springs area is a prime location for February. Discussions still  
171 continue relative to the overall desirable length of the meeting.  
172

173 **7. NESAF News Quarterly (Wyman):** Brad W. requests that Tim Hawley return the Award recipient  
174 information to Brad for printing well in advance of the Winter Meeting and *Anne Marie K. and Randy Stone*  
175 *assure Brad that these items will be delivered to Brad (from Tim Hawley) on schedule.*  
176

### 177 **8. State Reports (NESAF State Representatives):**

178 MA -The MA Chapter of SAF turned their USDA FS FIG Grant over to DCR/Bureau of Forest Fire Control &  
179 Forestry due to legal & procedural difficulties. DCR will implement this project with the MA Chapter SAF  
180 and other partners.

181 In conjunction with NESAF, MA SAF Website plans are now underway.

182 A MA Forest Forum met during November 2006.

183 Two revisions to M.G.L. Chapter 132 will be presented at public meetings and include (1) removal of a  
184 clause that recognizes documented completion of the SAF CFE or the SAF CF program as sufficient evidence



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185 for the MA Forester License CFE requirement and renewal and (2) addition of a section that will preclude  
186 those foresters who fail to renew or who fail to meet the continuing education requirements of the MA  
187 Foresters License from applying for a new license for a period of 24 months.  
188

189 RI - Paul D: A new program "Partners through time" represents a new art exhibit with vendors as part of the  
190 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary grant. The Champion Trees Project (partially funded by a NESAF grant) developed a  
191 computer access program as well as a publication and general project upgrade, and field checks. Tree council  
192 co-sponsored this project. RI SAF partnered with ISA who will meet in RI. A storm response workshop was  
193 held in late September. More than 200 attended the Walk in the Forest. A Website that functions based on  
194 GPS locations, with photos and a summary of pest threats by city town and year in is progress.  
195

196 NH - Peter H: NH newsletter will go into mail soon and to the website. A soils workshop was held 3, 5 & 6  
197 October 2006. NH held a November logging workshop for foresters. Feb 9 = Annual Granite State Meeting.  
198 NH has finalized a job description for the policy position. NH Will continue to sponsor students and still is  
199 looking to recruit a new Treasurer and other positions. The Winter Meeting will be in Waterville Valley on  
200 February 9<sup>th</sup>. The NH EC discussed Tree Farm program issues and current use and Tree Farm separation.  
201

202 CT - Tom Degnan was not present however Tom delivered an E-mail to Ken L. relative to the following items.  
203 A September meeting focused on Connecticut's Forest Practice Act. The CT Forest Research Forum on  
204 September 28<sup>th</sup> reviewed the current research going on in CT. and was well attended. This meeting was  
205 sponsored by a grant from NESAF. The CT Forest Forum held November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting called "Working  
206 Toward Solutions: How to Sustain CT's Woodlands".  
207

208 VT - Ed O: One of two per year legislative breakfasts will be held 2/2007. A new Chair and Vice Chair will  
209 take their places soon. The Governor's Forum on Primary Forest Products Industry will meet on 12/13/06. the  
210 Green Mountain was specifically not invited. The EC discussed this issue in detail. A summer 2007 joint  
211 meeting is being planned in coordination with The Wildlife Society.  
212

213 ME - Maine's Winter Meeting was held October 10<sup>th</sup>, more than 200 attended and focused on conservation  
214 easements, wood supply agreements and a technology session (GPS in machines to make harvests more  
215 efficient). The ME EC will meet 12/07/06 and this will be the last meeting before new officers take their  
216 places in 2007. The Maine Chapter has a full slate of officers including student participation.  
217

218 **9. SAF Council Report: (Laferrriere):** Some of the items addressed at Council's December meeting:

219 Membership, Marketing and Public Relations: In January, SAF will begin to conduct focus groups  
220 which will be essential to building an all-member survey. The information will guide how we use current  
221 resources and programs. Proposals for changes regarding membership categories should be addressed with  
222 the membership very soon - Council will have that on the March meeting agenda.

223 Working Groups: White Papers: Development of these papers is a relatively new action for SAF.  
224 There was concern that policy/position statements were being included, and that, in so doing, the position  
225 statement development process was being bypassed. White papers are intended to be informative as to  
226 facts, but not as to position. More will be forthcoming regarding this issue.

227 Finance & Budget: At 10/31 we are \$76,000 over revenue projected by our budget and \$67,500  
228 under projected budgeted expenses. This is good news; however Convention expenses are still coming in. We  
229 approved a \$3.3 million budget, with intended net operating revenue of \$79,000.

230 Included in the budget is \$30,000 for Foresters' Fund grants. However, no funds were budgeted for  
231 the Leadership Academy because this function has resulted in a \$15-20,000 loss to SAF each year. It takes  
232 80 - 90 participants to break even, and attendance remains below that level. Reports from participants are

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233 good and the program is a real success except financially. Presently, the thinking is to offer it in 2008, but  
234 more needs to be done regarding how to achieve this success in a more financially viable manner.

235 We adopted guidelines for management and distribution of funds from The Mollie Beattie Endowment  
236 Fund for Diversity. Established at SAF by her friends and colleagues, the purpose of the Fund is to enhance  
237 diversity in the natural resource professions by encouraging young people - especially women and minorities -  
238 to enter and become active in these professions. Also, it is meant to encourage a welcoming and supportive  
239 atmosphere within SAF for those who wish to participate in the profession.

240 Name Change: Following up on the recent article in The Forestry Source, a presentation was made in  
241 support of this proposal. While the article referenced the American Society of Forestry, the presenters  
242 felt the Society of American Forestry was more appropriate. Subsequent discussion indicated that there  
243 are strong feelings on both sides - change/no change - and that more feedback was needed from the  
244 membership, perhaps in part through the above-referenced focus groups. Council took no action, but  
245 encouraged more research on the subject.

246 Unit Assessment: An activities analysis questionnaire will soon be sent to all chapter, division, and  
247 state society chairs. This is done to help SAF identify the extent and nature of local unit activities.

248 Fellow Nominations: Council "raised the bar" a bit regarding qualification. Instructions and other  
249 documentation state "The goal of the Society is to recognize approximately five percent of its members with  
250 this honor." This is a goal, not a fixed number, and has caused much discussion regarding its appropriateness  
251 and applicability. Nationally, the number of Fellows exceeds five percent of the membership. With the goal  
252 in mind, but not viewed as specific limit, a Council committee proposed that nomination instructions be  
253 changed to read "The District Fellows Committee shall forward all nomination packets it recommends as best  
254 qualified, from among those candidates it finds qualified, to the respective Council member.." The motion  
255 passed, with my vote being the sole opposition. I and others have a problem with the five percent goal  
256 becoming a significant limit, and with passage of this motion it has become just that. Now the nominating  
257 committee must select the best of those qualified, the implication being that qualification is only the  
258 beginning of some kind of competition. My sense is a nominee is either qualified or not, and if qualified  
259 should be elected. If member-wide limits are desired, and those limits are being exceeded, then raise the  
260 standards for qualification but do not pit qualified members against one another.

261 Ethics Committee Process Standards: I have been advocating for stronger controls, guidelines and  
262 oversight regarding how ethics charges are processed. In response, Council has changed the Bylaws. More is  
263 needed and I will continue to work with the Ethics Committee to develop process standards for consideration  
264 and approval by Council.

265

### 266 10. Chair Potpourri (Laustsen):

267

268 **1995 Commemorative Tree Planting:** The (elusive) plaque has been located and will be placed near  
269 the Tree that was planted on the Common in Portland, ME following the 1995 Portland, ME National Meeting.

270

271 **Leadership Academy in New England:** Instead of occurring west of the Mississippi, Ken L. began a  
272 discussion at the last EC relative to the question of why the Leadership Academy couldn't occur closer to the  
273 northeast. NESAF is second in line for the 2008 Academy or the 2009 Academy. The EC discussed whether  
274 or not NESAF should pursue a New England leadership academy or should NESAF host the National  
275 leadership academy? The EC thought that New England should consider hosting the National academy next  
276 year and perhaps the EC through George F. could pursue a NE Leadership Academy in 2007.

277

278 **HSD Meeting:** George F. and Ken L. attended the HSD meeting which was held just before this  
279 year's convention and George F. and Ken L appreciated the support of the EC. A great deal of business was  
280 completed and the following items were discussed:

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- 281     ▪ Presentation on a proposal for several membership related changes, HSD recommended a delay in
- 282     implementing until members could be surveyed.
- 283     ▪ Presentation on the Certified Forester program.
- 284     ▪ Multiple success stories were presented.
- 285     ▪ An action item on the transfer of nursery stock was approved and recommended to Council.
- 286     ▪ Approved a revised charter that makes the chair elect position a 2-year term, 1 year as chair-elect
- 287     and the following year as HSD chair in order to have better continuity of leadership and reduced the
- 288     need to campaign every year for 4 candidates to fill 2 positions

289  
290     **2007 Meeting Dates:** 1/23/2007 - Concord, NH (9:30-3:30);  
291                               3/20/2007 at Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, VT (1PM-?);  
292                               6/19/2007 Groton, VT (9:30-3:30);  
293                               9/12/2007 Chepachet, RI (9:30-3:30)  
294                               12/12/2007 Concord, NH (9:30-3:30)

295  
296     **"Future Challenges for Foresters" - White Paper status:** EC members should review with state  
297     representatives at local chapter meetings in an attempt to hone the White Paper down to fewer bullets.

298  
299     **The Alleghany Society** thanks NESAF for donations to the silent Auction which yielded \$14,000.

300  
301     Calendar: **The NESAF EC will next meet on 1/23/2007** at 9:30am at the SPNHF Office in Concord, NH.

302  
303     Motion to adjourn from Larry R.: Second from George F.: Called and passed unanimously at 1530 hrs.