New England Society of American Foresters (NESAF)
Executive Committee (EC) Meeting
Tuesday January 23rd, 2007

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

Members present:
- Paul Dolan, Rhode Island State Representative
- Roger Dziengeleski, Council Representative
- George Frame, Chair
- James Harding, Forest Science Coordinator
- J Peter Howland, New Hampshire State Representative; Policy Committee Chair
- Mariann Johnston, Website Editor
- Anne Marie Kittredge, Secretary, Awards Chair
- Ken Laustsen, Immediate Past Chair
- Ron Lemin Jr., Vice-Chair
- Spencer Meyer, Maine State Representative
- Ed O'Leary, Vermont State Representative
- Larry Rousseau, Treasurer
- Randy Stone, Massachusetts State Representative
- Brad Wyman, NESAF News Quarterly Editor

Guests: None

Members not present:
- Tom Degnan, Connecticut State Representative

Meeting opened by NESAF Chair, George Frame at 0937

1. Standard items:
   - **Sign in sheet (Kittredge) – verify contact information:** The standard sign-in sheet was circulated.
   - **Welcome:** George F. welcomed all EC members including new members, James Harding (Forest Science Coordinator) and Roger Dziengeleski (Council Representative).
   - **Antitrust statement:** The antitrust statement was presented and distributed.
   - **Add/Adjust agenda:** No additions were suggested to the agenda. Brad suggested that the two news quarterly agenda items (3 and 11) could become combined under item 3. Ken L. will provide the update for the EC relative to item 10.

2. Corrections/Additions for the December 6, 2006 meeting minutes (Kittredge): Previous corrections from Ken L., Laura K., Mariann J., and George F., have been incorporated into the draft minutes. New corrections were suggested and duly noted. An amendment was added to the Grants section on page 5. A motion was heard from Brad W. to accept the meeting minutes; a second to the motion was heard from Pete H. The question was called and passed unanimously.
2. **Treasurer’s report (Rousseau):** Larry R. distributed the NESAF accounts’ balance as of 1/23/07 and itemized updates. Larry closed the last Key account (checking) now that all checks have cleared. A motion was heard to approve the Treasurer’s Report from Paul D.; a second to the motion was heard from Ed O. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

2. **NESAF Website Management and unit web presence discussion:** (Mariann J., Ken L., Spencer M. and Ron L. arrived at this time; George F. re-introduced Roger and James to the newly arrived EC members.)

   i. **Jim Oehler concerns relative to required time and effort:** Jim O. prefers to be paid an hourly rate ($45) instead of a stipend for his services as NESAF’s Web Master. Mariann estimated that Jim's time has been averaging about 3.5 hours/month. At Jim’s regular rate ($45/hour) the anticipated costs of the Web Master’s services would cost ~ $1900/year. [Secretary’s Note: The EC discovered after this meeting that these minutes recorded an error. Jim’s time actually averaged about 2.5 hours/month not 3.5 hours/month. Therefore, the more accurate anticipated costs of the Web Master’s services would cost ~ $1350/year.] Jim O. currently earns a stipend of $500/year. While Jim's proposed hourly rate is a reasonable cost for services rendered, Mariann J. described an alternative situation that was successful for the Inland Empire SAF which operates from a database. The database style web page can be accessed from a word-type screen for editing purposes. Files and pictures can be uploaded and linked to as well. The EC members can check out the Inland Empire web site (www.iesaf.org) to see how their site looks. The advantages: it would be easy for Mariann J. or other (non Web Master-types with a password) to make changes to the NESAF site. It is not necessary for Mariann J. to be the only member with a password or the ability to edit the site. The disadvantages: The NESAF EC has built a good relationship with Jim O., and this proposed process may leave him out of loop. One estimate of costs for conversion from the current NESAF website to this model ~$1,040 plus a maintenance fee ~$300/year, plus $10/month per email list to host list-serves. Spencer M. is familiar with this alternative and recommends this process as the state-of-the-art way for NESAF to proceed. This database style represents a preferred method over the current style of a "static website" that NESAF currently maintains. Various website consulting companies can also host list serves (email lists for the chapters for example). This list-serve option offers the potential for the NQ distribution electronically. Spencer suggested that the NESAF EC may want to shop around because more than one consulting company exists that can complete this conversion for NESAF. Brad W. suggested that as Jim O. is our current webmaster, we ask him whether he can provide this service and offer him the right of first refusal. More specific research and recommendations are needed. Mariann J. and Spencer M. will come back to the EC with more information (quotes) from several consultants and George will add this item to the March 20th NESAF EC agenda. In the meantime, the EC agreed to pay Jim the requested hourly rate (January 1, 2007 till the next EC meeting on March 20, 2007) unless the NESAF EC makes a decision about the future conversion (or not) of the NESAF website by E-mail sooner than the March 20, 2007 EC meeting.

   ii. **VT concerns relative to lack of identity, dollars and management:** According to Green Mountain members their website requires revisions. As one alternative, the Green Mountain (GM) could pay someone to update and maintain its site. Ed volunteered to be the GM contact to either Mariann J., Jim O. or another contact who agreed to help with updates. Possible solutions to this GM concern were discussed (above) as part of the NESAF website conversion option. If NESAF
converts its website to the newer database style, then GM will benefit from this conversion and
the resulting ease of editing its own GM website.

iii. **Cost estimates Maine vs. NH:** The current web site costs were discussed in order to collect
estimates from throughout the region.

iv. **Local unit annual participation fee (Frame):** Currently some of the individual states pay various
rates ($200-250) for their own web sites. One option that could be considered in the future
would be for individual state societies to pay NESAF for a share of the NESAF website
maintenance costs. This option might be most attractive to individual state societies if the
conversion option (described above) is carried out and if it indeed enhances the ease of editing
each state’s information. Alternatively individual states may prefer to continue to maintain
independent websites.

3. **NESAF News Quarterly – future Thoughts (Wyman):** Note: A notebook containing some of Austin
Cary’s original field notes was circulated for EC to view. Brad W. currently holds these. The notes are
valuable, will be an asset that can be used during the reconstruction of NESAF history, and quotes can be
used within future issues of the News Quarterly.

Brad W. estimates that the current production of the NESAF NQ requires about a 50-hour
contribution/quarter (editing, labeling and mailing). Brad W. enjoys this process; however, Brad is planning to
retire soon as NQ editor. Brad will continue as NQ editor for 6 more issues. The EC agrees that it is time to
advertise and line up a new editor! Brad will announce the NQ Editor Position (a) in the next NQ, (b) at the
Winter Meeting and (c) he will post the position on the NESAF website. Brad W. believes that it is possible
that the current NQ editor stipend may be inadequate for the next editor; NESAF may be building a bigger
and better NQ that can’t be maintained in the future at the current stipend level. However several changes
to the production process that are described below may help. Note: NESAF purchased publishing software
~7 year ago for Brad. The new editor will need new modern publishing software.

This (January 2007) issue of the NQ was produced and mailed in a new “flat” format because it contained
too many pages (8 pages longer than any prior NQ) to be folded in half. The EC liked the new look. The
printer applied the bar code which allows PO automation and reduces postage costs. The flat version of the
NQ is more expensive to mail but less tedious for the NQ editor (who folds and sticks each NQ!); the
additional costs of this new flat version approaches ~ $135/issue.

Maybe NESAF EC should ask in the next NQ whether or not individual members would like to consider
discontinuing the hard copy/mailed version of the NQ? Note: ~20% of NESAF membership does not list E-
mail addresses.

If EC considers increasing the NQ expenses line item to allow for this new “bar coded-flat/unfolded” NQ
version, this change does not include or consider an increase in editor’s stipend. The new version would save
the NQ editor time and may make the stipend a little more reasonable. Brad W. proposed a motion to
increase to NQ budget for publication, printing, postage etc. that will allow for the routine addition of extra
pages (20-24 pages). The motion proposes increasing the NQ expense budget from $4,000 to $5000 dollars.
A second was heard from Ken L. The question was called and passed unanimously.
Brad will continue to cooperate with the New Horizons project (NQ Volume 68. p5). This group requested mailing labels and assistance with the production of a meeting notice that advertises an opportunity for members to visit Russia as part of an April 2007 trip.

Brad shared the list of recently suggested new themes developed by the EC with James H., NESAF’s new FSC and Theme Editor. Jim and Brad will continue to work together and choose the next themes and contributors.

4. Standing Committee reports:

Nominations and Election (Dolan): Reminder: The terms for the RI, NH and CT state representative will expire at year-end and need nominations for the fall 2007 election. The NESAF secretary and treasurer terms will also require nominations for this fall’s election. The EC will begin to solicit new names and submit them to Paul D.

Policy (Howland): Presentation of a draft “Global Climate Change” Policy Position: Pete distributed a draft version of this proposed new policy position. Members of the EC suggested various small editorial comments. NESAF will send this statement to the National Office for review. A motion to submit the modified statement to National for review was heard from George F. and a second was heard from Spencer M. This motion passed unanimously. It is hoped that the EC can vote on this policy position by e-mail before the Winter Meeting so that this new policy position can be presented at the Winter Meeting (and possibly at town meetings). The state representatives can bring this draft edition of the policy position to local SAF meetings. Based on state unit comments, Pete will review and edit as needed. Pete will e-mail a newly revised version to all EC members. Brad offered a motion that the NESAF FSC communicate to the Forest Science & Technology Board (FS&TB) and to the SAF national Committee on Forest Policy (CFP) that it is time for SAF (national) to consider and develop a similar policy position. Second by Ed O. and this motion passed unanimously. George F. and Ron L. may bring to idea to HSD this year.

Membership (Lemin): Several State societies are still discussing the National Office’s proposed membership categories as strategies to increase and maintain members. Vermont already discussed the proposal and can live with the changes Maine and Vermont comments have been received by Ron. NH’s meeting and comments will follow next week’s meeting. Ron would still appreciate comments from CT, RI and MA. Massachusetts will not meet until February or March. Ron summarized some of the comments he has received so far. George asked about the National surveys and/or focused groups described in an E-mail from Charlene. Roger responded that those e-mail deadlines should be taken in context of the membership issues that transcend the past and future and will not be needed in time for the March Council meeting. These surveys etc are all part of a longer-term study of the dynamic in professional changes. National and council need current demographic data for many projects. Ron L. will forward comments to Roger before mid-March.

Forest Science Coordinator (Harding): Laura’s resignation as Forest Science Coordinator became effective 12/31/06. This is Jim Harding’s first EC meeting. James was introduced to the EC and was welcomed by all. James thanks Laura K. and Ken L. for their recommendations. James is excited to take over Laura’s fine work. A motion was heard from Paul D. to ratify this appointment of James. A second was heard from Spencer M. The question was called and passed unanimously. (Note: The Chair was absent from the room during this motion.)

NESAF Website (Johnston): The new calendar is working quite well. The hidden membership number from last year’s attendees list (this member will receive a free Winter Meeting registration) is posted and
APPROVED 3/20/07

has not been found yet. Jim O. relayed steady increase of visitors and visits to the website. The number of
visits and visitors that occurred during the first half of January has already surpassed December's total.
Mariann received the list of affiliated conservation groups from Anne Marie K. but Mariann would appreciate
more guidance relative to how much of this link service the NESAF EC wants to proceed with. Mariann will
circulate the lists and EC members will choose their top 5, but NESAF will list a compiled top 5, to use as
links. Note: The CT DEP new website recognizes the NESAF site as a link. The NESAF website changes are
very much appreciated by the EC. The Winter Meeting program and registration form have been posted on
the site.

Grants (Degnan): Tom D. is not present. NESAF received a December E-mail from CT requesting
permission to transfer the Yankee division grant funds to the CT chapter. CT would use these funds on
another different project. This request will not be granted by the NESAF EC due to inconsistency with the
NESAF grant process. The original grant was for CT Research Forum. NESAF received a final grant report
for this project. This Forum resulted in a profit and apparently the NESAF grant dollars were not used.
These grant dollars will be returned to NESAF, will go back into the grant budget, and be available next year.
Amendment to minutes: At the (following) 3/20/07 EC meeting, Tom D. correctly noted that the EC meeting
minutes from 1/23/07 do not accurately reflect the EC's full discussion of two questions relative to CT's
request for flexibility in the Grant proposal format. The first question was from Bill Bentley. Bill B. asked if
NESAF could consider a request from CT before December 2007 (because one new CT project will require
funding earlier in the fall). Ken L. suggested that CT request funds from the Forester's Fund which has
available funds and a more flexible deadline. Ken L. made a motion and Spencer M. seconded a motion to
amend the January minutes to more accurately reflect this conversation. The motion passed unanimously.
Anne Marie K. will amend the January EC meeting minutes. The March EC meeting minutes now reflect this
motion. George F. will write a letter to the new CT chapter chair, Joan Nichols, requesting the return of the
grant dollars to NESAF.

Paul D. submitted 2 final reports for grants. (1) Champion Trees: Paul D. thanks NESAF for support and seed
money for this project. Other organizations have now become sponsors of the Champion Tree Project. Motion
to accept the final project report for this Rhode Island grant from Ed O. with a second by Pete H.
Unanimously approved. (2) 100 years of Forestry in Rhode Island: These funds used for multiple purposes
within this project. Paul distributed mugs and posters for each EC member. The EC thanks RI for the mugs
and posters. A motion was heard from Brad W. to accept the final project report for this Rhode Island
grant. A second was offered by second from Ron L. This motion passed unanimously.
(Brief break from the NESAF EC meeting for lunch)

Awards (Kittredge): Nominations for all award categories were solicited through (a) the NQ, (b) the
NESAF website and (c) for the Integrity in Conservation Award by direct mail to conservation organizations.
At least one complete nomination package has been received for each category. Several nomination packages
were carried over from last year's nomination process to this year's process. Anne Marie K. copied all of the
nomination information and distributed a complete package and a ranking sheet to each NESAF State
Representative. Anne Marie K. will E-mail the ranking sheet to each state representative so that they may
more easily return their rank electronically. Because Pete Howland (currently the NH State Representative
to NESAF and a member of the Awards Committee) was nominated for one of the categories, George Frame
has been asked to (replace Pete and) rank that specific award category. The State Representatives will fill in
their ranking sheet and return their ranking sheet to Anne Marie K. Anne Marie will process and forward the
results to the EC and Tim Hawley. Anne Marie K. will provide biographical information to Tim H. who will
develop and deliver the Award Brochure template to Brad W. Brad will make arrangements for printing the
Award Brochure and will bring the completed Award Brochures to the Winter Meeting.
This year NESAF received two Integrity nominations that name (a) 3 individuals or (b) 4 groups. The EC decided to award one print (with multiple names printed on the plate) to the successful recipient(s) who will be responsible for sharing the print or posting it in one public location.

5. New Committee Chair appointments – All committee chair appointments were reviewed by the EC.

Pete agreed to continue as policy chair. Tom D. (Grants Chair) missed the recent 2 meetings and the EC does not know about his willingness to continue as Chair of the Grants Committee. Anne Marie will temporarily continue as Awards Chair and hearing no new volunteers, she will work with Randy S. as potential future Awards Chair. Ron L. agreed to temporarily continue as Membership Chair at least until the Winter Meeting. Paul D. will continue to Chair the Nomination Committee.

6. Budget (Rousseau): A 2nd Draft of the Budget was distributed. Income revisions included: a decrease in dues and corrected year end returns, corrected interest to include interest since the last EC meeting. Forester fund was modified. The expense modifications include: increased NQ expenses from $4000 to $5000; NQ stipend remained the same. The administrative assistant line item was reduced by half; the national to HSD was increased. Larry added a new line item for the Forest Science Coordinator stipend. Larry added the Web Site Administrator stipend ($500). NESAF EC may need to modify the Web Master lines as stipend + expenses = “expenses”, a combination of the last 2 lines to cover either Jim O. or the new website database process. The Leadership Academy budget was cancelled due to no academy next year. No motion is needed for this work in progress. This is a second draft. The third (and final) draft of this budget will be reviewed at the March EC meeting just before the Business meeting.

7. New Horizon Meeting Report (Laustsen): Ken attended a meeting in December in Boston, MA with the intent of being a part of a discussion group from the Tomsk region of Siberia and the New Horizons Project. Due to a last minute emergencies, only 2 representatives from Russia arrived. The meeting was heavily attended by SAF members. Canadian representatives should be included in this circum-polar forestry community meeting in the future. Russian professional forestry organizations do not exist today. There is an opportunity for N. American foresters to enhance an interchange between these countries. The New Horizons project is looking for funding for this kind of travel/exchange. Some of this interchange is already happening. While here, they looked at NEFF properties as well as a NH mill.

8. NESAF Operational Manual (Frame) George F. continues to work on the Manual. George E-mailed the manual to the EC members. George will re-send the document to 4 individuals who did not receive it. The NESAF EC may need to amend the manual to include the website administrator as a voting member of the EC. The need to edit and update this manual periodically will continue.
   i. Comments on current form: see above
   ii. Continued efforts to update the Operations Manual: see above

9. 2007 Winter Meeting (O’Leary): Committee leaders are in the final stages of producing a fine Winter Meeting [Russ Reay - General Chair; Ed O’Leary - Facility Chair; Mark Twery - Program Chair; Bob Burt - Finance Chair; Leo Laferriere - Public Information Chair; Barb Burns - Entertainment Chair.] Theme: “Cycles of Forestry”. The 2007 Winter Meeting is scheduled for March 21-23, 2007 at Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, VT. The final meeting of all committees was December 13, 2006. Everything is proceeding well. The agenda and registration information was received by all this week within the NQ. Ed suggests that the EC register early for rooms at the site. A Northern Forest Center exhibit “Ways of the Woods” will leave their exhibit in the parking lot for NESAF Winter Meeting. Several EC members have seen this fine exhibit elsewhere.
The exhibitors and attendees registration form is available on NESAF’s website. Laura is working with Jay M. relative to posters. The Inn will provide buffet meals, at cost, throughout the day(s).

10. 2008 Joint NE/NY Meeting – status (Laustsen): this project is moving forward. Location has been determined as Saratoga Springs for February 26-28, 2008. Yankee and NY Chairs will travel to the site in the next few weeks to view the facility. Brad will communicate with Jaime and Jerry Milne relative to NQ advertising deadlines for next year’s Winter Meeting.

11. NESAF News Quarterly (Wyman): item deleted (covered earlier in item 3).

12. State Reports (NESAF State Representatives):

MA – Anne Marie K. (for Randy Stone): The MA Chapter of SAF plans to meet in February/March 2007. The Yankee Division Winter Meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, 15 February 2007: Enfield CT.

Revisions to M.G.L. Chapter 132, the Massachusetts Forest Cutting Practices Act were discussed at the 1/19/07 Massachusetts State Forestry Committee Meeting at Harvard Forest, Petersham MA. Proposed changes include: (a) the removal of “OT” (which stands for other non-silvicultural options) as one of the allowed standard forms of silviculture; (b) the addition of a requirement that all harvest treatments be marked except for clearcuts. In the case of clearcuts, the perimeter of the area to be CC will be designated. A period of public review will follow soon. Revisions to the Forest Cutting Plan Form will be one of the subjects of the 3/15/07 meeting.

Two Public Meetings have been scheduled to review the following: State Draft Forest Resource Management Plans for the (DCR) Southern and Northern Berkshire and Western Connecticut Valley Forest Management Districts and the (DFW) drafts for the Taconic Mountains and Marble Valley Forest Management Zones. The planning documents are available on line.

Legislative changes amend the Massachusetts Chapter 61 (current use) program. The new legislation allows (1) landowners to switch from enrollment under one chapter to enrollment under another chapter without penalty; (2) municipalities the option to tax these classified lands at open space rates rather than commercial rates; (3) sets uniform penalties for all three chapters when/if land no longer qualifies for Chapter 61 rates; (4) eliminates the stumpage tax; (5) other detailed changes.

RI – Paul D: Liberty Tree planting ceremonies may become a part of the Arbor Day celebration with American Forests and SAF as sponsors. RI’s participation in the Envirothon continues. RI will host a National Network of Forest Practitioners on February 23 & 24 in an effort to unite urban to rural projects and interests. As part of the National Arbor Day tour programs on “hazards trees” and “people and the law” will be presented. During mid February the RI chapter will meet.

NH – Peter H: The 2007 Winter Meeting will be in Waterville Valley on February 9th. The NH EC discussed Tree Farm program issues, current use and Tree Farm separation. The Farm to Forest program will be hosted on February 2. Upcoming election results will replace current officers. The question of the accreditation of Thompson school is one of the projects currently being worked on by the committee. A recent USFS sale has been appealed by a local conservation group.

CT – Tom Degnan: no state report presented.

VT – Ed O: A legislative breakfast has been scheduled in February followed by a 10am business meeting which will focus on exotic invasive plants and the state’s wildlife conservation plan. A Vermont facility (Seyon Ranch State Park) is available for NESAF’s June meeting. Ed will E-mail the EC soon relative to these details.
ME - Ron Lemin: The ME EC met 12/07/06 - the last meeting before new officers took their places in 2007.
The next meeting of the Maine chapter will be Feb. 6th with new officers. The proposed membership changes are a topic of this meeting. Now that there will be no 2007 Leadership Academy, ME SAF moved $2000 to two scholarship funds at the University of Maine. Meetings with forestry awareness committee have been aimed at re-structuring a new twist to the old poster contest (with PLT) and others in an effort to promote the topic of forestry on the curriculum in K-12 classes in Maine.

13. SAF Council Report: (Dzienieleski): Roger D. distributed a copy of the SAF Position Development Process text for the EC to review. Roger updated the EC on the following items.

- The Field forester nominations will be due to Roger D. before May 31st.
- The EC and NESAF members should work on nominations for National awards soon.
- Any agenda items that NESAF would like presented to Council are due by first week of February.
- Roger expressed willingness to help present items from NESAF to Council.
- Monthly reports from Roger to Council represent another opportunity to present ideas, issues and concerns (and are not just limited to good news stories).
- All NESAF feedback relative to by-law changes will help Roger to represent NESAF.
- "Fellow" nominations will be due soon and will be restricted to a more accelerated timeline by the National Office.
- The attendees at the recent 2006 Leadership Academy suggested an association name change (from the Society of American Foresters to the Society of American Forests). This conceptual idea will become part of a longer national debate.

14. Chair Potpourri (Frame):

i. Golden Member and Award winners “free lunch”: 2 of 6 golden members have responded to George and they will definitely attend the 2007 Winter Meeting Award Banquet. All of the award recipients will also be given the opportunity to attend the Award Luncheon at no cost. Anne Marie K. will e-mail the final award ranking to George and George will be the contact person between NESAF EC, the Award recipients and the Winter Meeting program committee relative to these free banquet tickets.

ii. By-law changes: NESAF is no longer part of the process for fellow nominations so the by-laws may need to be changed because the descriptions of award & fellows committee include fellows. George thought this reference should be removed. Ken thought retaining fellows within the awards committee, kept the fellows process more on the front page. Any member can submit a fellow nomination to the District Fellows Committee. When more by-law changes come around we could make this change along with others. This potential change could help raise the awareness of this newly altered process change relative to fellows. The EC may revisit this item in March EC.

Other: Merv Stevens is looking into a new project that would take advantage of forestry mentors’ accumulated wisdom from the past. Merv would like to organize a meeting of existing NESAF fellows to discuss the many ways that Fellows can function as mentors to other foresters. Merv may try to organize this event at the Winter Meeting).

National SAF website includes a strategic plan 2007-11. George encourages all EC members to read the strategic plan.

The SAF Annual Report was published during the fall of 2006. George recommends that EC read it on line.
Fellows nomination deadline = July 31 (this is the deadline for the District Fellows Committee to forward their recommendations on nominations to Roger D) (There is also an unknown deadline at this point in time on when Fellow nominations have to be presented to the District Fellows Committee).

Calendar: The NESAF EC will next meet on 3/20/2007 at Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, VT (1PM)

A motion to adjourn was heard from Paul D.; a second was heard from Pete H.; the motion was called and passed unanimously at 1430 hrs.