

# Board Meeting Agenda Thursday, 29 November 2018

## MAW Board Minutes 11/29/2018 started at 6:47pm

In attendance: William Needham, Matt Cohen sitting in for Elizabeth Hargrave, Thomas Roehl, John Harper, Jared Urchek, Bruce Boyer, Agnes Demianski, Connie Durnan, Mitch Fournet

### I. Minutes William reviewed the 16 August 2018 minutes

### II. Reports of Officers

- a. **Vice- Harper** – I thought the tasting went well. I was unclear about capacity of the space and we had longer than needed so we should rethink the agenda. Did not think having people cooking early in the morning went well. We filled up at the last minute, but were short on cooks.
  - William- It was intended to be a more involved affair, but since Michael went AWOL, it was just good to have it. Agree, I think it should be a tasting
  - Bruce- Agree it should be the evening.
  - John- Also the timing; is November the right time? This year it worked, but is that right for every year? What is the schedule for 2019; April or May?
    - William- As soon as we get done with the election, I will send out an email about plans for 2019. Culinary chair and programs chair will have ability to fill out dates. Mushroom fair and Sequanota dates should get set early too so we are ready for our fist meeting in February.
    - Bruce-NAMA next year is in NY in August 8<sup>th</sup>-11
    - John- WVA foray is in July. It is a go; third weekend in July. Are we cohosting that with them?
      - Connie- They have not contacted me. I think they have a team who have it together.
  - John- We hardly had any forays for people on Meetup this year; don't know if we should have more. The Meetup group doesn't serve much function otherwise. There are over 500 people signed up.
    - William- I get email requests to join, do you take care of those?
    - John- yes.
  - John- Sometimes I post that we have a foray but that you have to sign up on the MAW website. All people on Meetup have signed waivers.
    - William- There are no directions on Meetup, right?
      - John- I give a vague description. They get the details when they register.
  - William- What is the average attendance on forays?
    - Jared- 10 to 20. We've never had a group over 30.
  - William- Are there any data points on forays that were open on Meetup?
    - Jared- No, we don't keep track of that.
  - Mitch- Should we have one a year that is geared toward the Meetup people?
    - William- One for Meetup only people to see what happens? We can draw more people in.
    - Mitch- If we actively engage them, they might join MAW.
  - Jared- How many Meetup members are actually MAW members?
    - John- About a third. More commonly, they join Meetup, they come to a meeting, then join MAW.
  - Connie- When I was working with Jon and others, I had a sign in sheet for people to sign. The foray I just went on did not have that. I think that is a good idea to track people.
    - William- It is good to document people.
  - Connie- The foray I went on had a great team. You don't always have that many leaders.
  - John- It is good to have multiple identifiers.

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- Matt- What I find on the large walks is the more participants we have, the more leaders naturally step up.
- b. **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice- Fournet** – nothing to report. I have about nine more trips (hopefully). Should be done around summer.
- c. Treasurer- Hargrave – Elizabeth was unable to attend, but her email to the board is pasted here and highlighted in grey:

1. For next year, I'd like to come up with a better system for agreeing on how many Sequanota attendees we have BEFORE reporting them to Sequanota for billing purposes. My records of who paid don't match what they billed us for. I think this happened a couple of years ago as well. As a result, we're currently showing a loss of \$424 for Sequanota this year. Not huge, but if they had billed us for the same number of people who paid, we would have broken even. When I'm back from my conference next week I can try to sit down with Connie and get to the bottom of this. My inclination is to just wave it off as an extra contribution to the camp if we overpaid, since it was our error. But on the other side of the equation, I want to make sure we've gotten payments from everyone who was actually there!

2. We brought in less income than we'd hoped to on the tasting, if my accounting is right. Some discussion might be warranted about expectations of spending and income for tastings for next year. Was attendance low because of the unexpected changeover in leadership right before the second tasting? Is the space worth what we're paying for it, relative to what people are willing to pay to be there, and how many people we can have? (I know, there aren't a lot of alternatives...) John/William, let me know if there are other expenses I need to reimburse for the tasting.

3. I gave last month's speaker my email address but haven't heard from him about travel expenses. Don't know how to reach him to give him a nudge.

4. William, fine to give your check to Matt or wait til Tuesday.

5. We just got the reminder that Wild Apricot is going up to \$972/year, from \$756/year. We already knew about this, but it will kick in when we pay the annual invoice in December. Given that we've gotten \$635 in donations alone this year (which we never would have gotten if we hadn't switched over), I'm happy to keep paying -- but let me know if this new amount is giving you pause.

6. Mycoflora, you have \$500 to spend before the end of the year if there are any supplies you need. Let me know if you've spent some of it so I can reimburse you.

7. Bruce, did you give me a receipt yet for vouchers you ordered?

- John- I used to separate library and speakers as two lines.
- Connie- We haven't received expenses for the last speaker.
- Matt- First half of meeting dates are reserved for Kensington. Nothing reserved for second half so may want to schedule a VA meeting after June.
- William- I think the tasting location works well, but we had too much time.
- Bruce- If we have something left for Mycoflora money left we should add it to next year. and I have the amount for what I need to be reimbursed.
- Connie- Sequanota has not overcharged us, every year I send a report of everyone who was there and who camped. That is how they come up with their billing. I will work that out with Elizabeth.

- d. **Secretary- Demianski** – nothing to report.

- e. **Membership- McCoy** – absent

- Thomas- I looked it up online: 424 memberships, 393 active. 256 are single and 154 are family memberships.

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- Bruce- Having over 500 people is tough to handle, would we be able to have services for all of them.
  - William- We should reach as many people as possible, but I worry about reaching capacity for the library.
  - Connie- As we increase our membership, we have to check in with NAMA because we pay our dues to them based on our membership levels.
  - Matt- Native Plant Society has about 800 members; we still meet in the library.
- f. **Culinary-Tasting- Dong** (tasting was discussed above under Vice)
- g. **Programs- Dornan** - David Rust visit. David is coming in late on Saturday, we should have a foray Sunday. He is leaving on Thursday morning. We could do a pot luck somewhere or go to a restaurant. When do we want to do that? If we are doing a foray on Sunday, we could take David out to lunch afterwards. The only reason I like a potluck is because it is an informal way to talk.
- William- This will be resolved by email?
    - Connie- yes
  - Connie- Tom is taking over for 2019. He has people lined up.
    - William- He has a lichen talk for February and Walt Sturgeon for April.
- h. **Forays- Urchek** - Need to plan forays with David Rust. In the budget there was an addition to the forays budget for vouchers, unclear about that.
- Bruce- We got incorrect vouchers for free, they will print the real ones, then I will pay for it.
  - Jared will show the ropes to new foray chair (Matt).
- i. **Newsletter Editor- Roehl** – Missed a newsletter because of lack of free time. That information will go into Jan/Feb newsletter. That affects the budget because we will only have three newsletters for the year instead of 4.
- William- Have an article about the secret life of tress.
- j. **NAMA Trustee/NAMA Foray- Boyer**
- Bruce- At our last meeting, Jerry Raffets brought me a VHS tape of Jeff Long. I think it is excellent history. Jeff was a MAW president who implemented our bylaws and allowed us to be incorporated in DC. I haven't watched it. The question is, since we don't have a library, how should we handle it?
    - Mitch- We need to put it on a computer somehow.
    - Connie- I have a VCR in my attic.
    - William- We want the data, not a VCR.
    - Bruce- We want to look at it before deciding if we want to keep it or show it to our members.
    - Matt- There are services that allow that, cost about 20-50 bucks.
    - Thomas- I have a VHS player that I think still works, will check it out.
    - Bruce- If it is degraded, not worth it.
    - Jared- So do we approve the cost?
    - Thomas- Should be below the \$50 limit.
    - William- We should have a board member review it before we transfer it.
  - Bruce – NAMA was interesting this year. There were 250 people and approximately 337 identified species. There were 4 big mushroomers who passed away this yr. Judy Rogers from the Oregon club passed away, was my friend; and Gary Lincoff of course. NAMA provides a fellowship for someone to attend in his or her name. There will be a rewrite of the

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- policy manual again. Next year's foray is at Smith College in August. Will be supported by local clubs. There was a detailed report about mycoflora given by the new chairman.
- Connie- I was awarded the President's Award for being registrar for forays 3 years in a row and was the nominating committee for new positions. It was hard to fill positions. The executive secretary will be president. Now there will be 3 women running the club. Sam Landis was given the other award. Also I know one of the clubs shares the NAMA newsletter for free to their membership. I think it would be a good idea to do once for our membership so people see the benefits of membership.
    - Bruce- You have to be a registered member to access the newsletter, but once you have it you can share it with anyone.
  - Connie- The foray after NY will be somewhere in Ohio.

### III. Unfinished Business

#### 1. Identifiers (sigh)

- William- I am still fighting with the current identifiers community to resolve this. We will eventually resolve this because I will not drop it.
- Bruce- Currently it is not a board issue, we are only concerned if we have it or not.
- John- This issue relates to the foray issue. We do want to have people who are trained to identify the common stuff be able to lead forays. These people could be trained to be foray leaders. That should be the focus; to give people enough info to be leaders.
- William- The issue is about culinary. Getting foray leaders is good, if we are going to expand, we need more. Could have a qualified foray leader list and people could sign up, one a month.
- Matt- In Native Plant Society anyone can be a leader if they know how to get from point a to point b.
- Bruce- There is an association of state food regulators that has asked NAMA to review some standards for edible mushrooms that they could publish. David has a list of interested NAMA members to look at what they have. The problem is it is not accurate on identification using pictures and does not cover the most common mushrooms in different areas. NAMA is evaluating jointly with Minnesota or Wisconsin that has a state program for certification of identifiers. For our club, we probably ought to stay out of it. If someone wants to get involved, I have info.
  - William- I think we should wait to see what NAMA comes up with.
  - John- What is the purpose of the list?
    - Bruce- Certify mushroomers that can sell to restaurants.

### IV. New Business

1. Book Publisher (Organic Mushroom Farming by Tradd Cotter) request to advertise on social media (E-Mail 21 August 2018) Possible speaker (Urchek), Book Review in Newsletter.
  - William- I got an email asking us to advertise to or members.
  - Connie- I asked Tradd to be a speaker. He says he can't do any talks until he finishes his PhD. Tom McCoy knows him too, he goes to WVA foray.
2. Microscope and camera for mushroom ID (Boyer 31 August 2018)
  - William- The table that we currently have; I will bring it, but not in winter. It does take a while to set up. It is Thomas's camera.
    - Thomas- Right now the camera is on loan. I do have a new one, so I may not need it.
  - Connie- It is great to sit in our chairs and see the mushrooms projected.
  - William- We used it twice. Once to test it out, once when we had the speaker snafu.

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- Bruce- Elizabeth had committed to paying WVA for it, not sure if she paid. We agreed to bring it back for the next WVA foray.
  - William- We should keep it, can pay if need it, no need to make our own. Then can loan it to WVA once a year.
  - Bruce- But if we make our own it would be lighter.
  - William- Who do we ask about paying for it?
    - Bruce- Elizabeth needs to handle it.
  - Matt- Elizabeth said we are “storing it” until next WVA foray.
  - Bruce- We did offer to pay for it.
  
- 3. Mycoflora as a board position (Urchek 9 September 2018)
  - Jared- This was a request on my part.
  - William- We are trending toward committees. Culinary as a committee. Sequanota should be a committee. That doesn’t require a board member for all things we do. Mycoflora is similar. We need to resolve how we handle Sequanota and Mycoflora. The chairman of the committees would attend board meetings.
  
- 4. Sequanota responsibility as a board collateral duty (Needham 10 September 2018)
  - Bruce- Sequanota used to be responsibility of foray chair until some point in time when the foray chair did not go to Sequanota.
  - Connie- Sequanota is easy, the hardest part is the money.
  - William- I would like Sequanota to be a committee and I would like to be a member.
  - Matt- When does planning for Sequanota start?
    - William- Our first meeting in January, we will pick dates, then we have to reserve it.
    - Connie- I think it is already on the calendar for next year, we get locked in for the usual weekend since we are regulars.
    - William- So we plan around that date for mushroom fair and culinary.
    - Connie- We just need to consider Western PA dates and NAMA.
  
- 5. Foray rules for non-members and how we announce forays (Needham/Urchek 21 September email from an individual wondering why we don’t post foray locations)
  - William- There was an individual wondering why we don’t post foray locations. We want to have a onetime Meetup foray (as discussed above). We don’t want to overwhelm a foray with a bunch of people from Meetup.
  - Mitch- In general we don’t post locations because people could go hunt it ahead of time.
  - Matt- They will get emails about the foray locations if they are MAW members.
  - Jared- They wanted earlier notice.
  - John- There is also a weather dependency.
  - Thomas- We usually get five or six people on weekdays.
  - William- I could do a weekday foray, even through Meetup. I’m usually not good on weekends.
    - Connie- and you should try your neck of the woods.
  - John- On Meetup you can set a limit on attendance.
  - William- I run all of my hikes on Meetup.
  - Bruce- MAW people don’t always make commitments ahead of time.
  - John- What controls for people not showing up?
  - William- If they behave badly, they can be excluded from future sign ups.
  
- 6. Sequanota Committee (Needham 24 September 2018) – discussed above.

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7. Email voting (Hargrave 10 October 2018)
  - William- This has come up several times. Would like to do this for next year.
  - Matt- For Native Plant Society they assume you are a yes vote unless you send off an email.
  - William- I assume board is in favor of email voting.
  - Connie- We have a December speaker to ensure we get a quorum for voting.
  - Bruce- We need to think about anything else people want to change in the bylaws if we need to do that for this.
8. Instagram account/Social media (Needham email 17 October 2018)
  - William- I talked with Lita and nominated her to be Thomas's understudy; thought she could work with Thomas.
  - Thomas- I have talked to her at some forays, have her email.
9. Lost and Found at MAW events (Urcheck – wallet 6 November 2018)
  - William- The system worked well for the lost wallet.
  - Jared- The person who lost the wallet came to my house to pick it up.
  - Bruce- If it ain't broke, don't fix it.
  - Connie- I have lost and found items from lots of things. We have to send an email to people.
  - William- When people lose things, they usually contact us.
  - John- We could have a lost and found part of our web site.
10. Culinary Committee (Needham 6 November 2018) discussed above.
11. William- I received a pen in the mail. We could have these as a MAW trinket.
12. William- Martin sent an email suggesting that MAW should have a good microscope and that NIH warehouse is a good place to look. Having a scope could be good for mushroom fair and for Mycoflora.
  - Jared- I have one that I got for \$300 that you can see spores.
  - Thomas- Is it reasonably portable?
    - Jared- Yeah, I have to make a case for it.
  - Connie- Shannon is a good source to figure out what to do.
  - Bruce- We brought this up before and there was not much interest.
    - William- but that was pre-mycoflora.
  - Bruce- It is also another thing to lug around.
    - William- I can be responsible for it.
  - Connie- I vote we put it in the budget and get one.
  - William- We should discuss at the first board meeting of new year. as unfinished business.
  - Mitch- Scopes are good, if you remember at Sequanota, it helped us in ID.
  - William- Yes, good asset to have.

## V. Reports of Special Committees, Projects, and Forays

1. Mycoflora Committee - NAMP Accountant (Livezey 26 November 2018)
  - William- Martin sent an email requesting an accountant to be a NAMP treasurer.
  - Jared- I talked with Ritas and he really doesn't like the epi tubes. Now he wants the dry samples.

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- Mitch- Doesn't Mycoflora have someone who decides the methods?
- Jared- They were getting bad samples so it is more efficient for them to do the whole process.
- Bruce- Bill Sheehan said at NAMA that they will take samples any way you got them if you set it up with a lab. I don't know what Tom Volk's process is at LaCrosse. You should contact them.
  - Jared- I suspect since it is a separate lab, they could want a completely different thing.
- Mitch- Now that we have these, can we still submit them?
  - Jared- They said they would, but they prefer it as dried samples.
- Bruce- Do we want to have access to the mushroom for later?
  - William- but we can subdivide samples.
- John- Do we need to do special drying?
- Bruce- If we are going to use Beltsville we should keep the samples.
  - William- In general I think we can do both.
  - Mitch- We have dried samples.
  - Jared- Yeah, that was what I was planning on doing for what we have available.
- Bruce- So you want the herbarium?
  - Jared- Yes, I want to use Beltsville.
- Thomas- I have a few tubes. And I think I have one dried sample.
- Jared- Wednesday is going to be the meeting in Beltsville at the USDA fungarium. They have their own form to fill out so we have to add that to our process.
  - Mitch- Maybe we can use that as our specimen sheet.

## **VI. Board Meetings next year 24 January - 30 May - 29 August -24 October**

- Matt and Elizabeth will be gone on Jan 24<sup>th</sup>
  - William- We need to have our board meeting before the first monthly meeting. Elizabeth just needs to have a budget ready.
- Jared- Should I plan on being at board meetings?
  - William- It would be advantageous to come to board mtgs.
- Connie- and we are still having them here?
  - William- yes please.

## **VII. Adjourn 8:58pm**