

Board Meeting Agenda Thursday, 24 January 2019

MAW Board Minutes 1/24/2019 started at 6:45pm

In attendance: William Needham, Thomas Roehl, John Harper, Bruce Boyer, Agnes Demianski, Connie Durnan, Mitch Fournet, Rick Silber

I. Minutes

1. William reviewed the 29 November 2018 minutes
2. Board Rules for 2019
 - William- This is a one sheet thing, pretty much boilerplate. I compressed them when I became president. I want everyone to be aware of them.
 - Bruce- I want to talk about budgeting for a particular event. If there is money required ahead of time, we know, otherwise we make a separate budget.
 - John- if we incur varying costs, it is useful for board to be aware ahead of time
 - Bruce- With Sequanota for example, we have an upfront cost that we put into the budget. We put down a deposit, so that would be put in a budget, or would need to prepare a new budget to support it.
 - Bruce- Previously there has been a policy that any regular member can attend board meetings.
 - Mitch – That might be in the bylaws.
 - William – I will check and will revised board rules if necessary. I will also announce at the next monthly meeting.
 - Connie – It is good if someone is interested in joining the board for them to attend a meeting.

II. Reports of Officers

- a. **Vice- Harper** – nothing to report.
- b. **2nd Vice- Fournet** – I talked to Tom, and had a problem with an online purchase in our store.
- c. **Treasurer- Hargrave** – absent, but supplied budget document.
 - William- our income was \$2k higher than projected, mainly due to additional members. We did not spend what we budgeted for meetings, and we spent less on the newsletter.
 - Connie- Elizabeth thought that Sequanota overcharged us, but I stated in the last board meeting that I tell Sequanota what we owe them. They also could have charged us additional money because we did not specify the number of vegetarians and they had to purchase additional food.
 - William- for next year, we are expecting \$8500.
 - John- Sequanota is unpredictable.
 - Connie- one year we lost quite a bit.
 - John- Income on membership could have been higher in 2018 because we didn't have any forays for non-members, not sure it will be repeated in 2019. Would like to see number of renewals for this year from last year. People are driven to pay for memberships when we have an event they want to attend.
 - William- one of the issues we had last year was the audit. The treasurer needs to submit a report, and I believe what has been supplied satisfies that. I will follow up and inform the board if that is accurate. Then will announce at the monthly meeting that this has been done and that receipts are available if a member wants to volunteer to do the audit.
 - Thomas- should we post the budget on the website?
 - William- I don't see why not, but we don't have a specific section for reports do we?
 - Thomas- minutes are posted.
 - William- could attach our yearly plan. I'm not sure what we gain out of it.
 - Thomas- it adds accessibility.

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- Mitch- it is offered at the meeting.
- William- I can bring it up at the meeting and ask if anyone wants that.
- Connie- Could have extra copies available at the meeting.
- Mitch- It would make the ones at the meeting redundant.
- John- could make them an attachment to the minutes. I would like to see a line by line comment for variations to make it understandable for members who look at it online.
- William- I think the treasurer's oral report is sufficient. If people ask we will tell them. Some of these answers are subjective. Don't want people to question how we know that.
- John- should we permit line item audits?
 - Thomas- I don't see why not.
 - William- we never stated that the audit has to be for the whole thing.
- John- we want people to do a report, even if it is a line item.
 - William- I would say provide feedback, instead of asking for a report.
- d. **Secretary- Demianski** – Nothing to report.
- e. **Membership- Silber** - I am interesting in figuring out what my role is so I will speak to Tom about Wild Apricot and will figure out the trends of renewing memberships, as John requested.
 - Thomas- A quick summary, we 388 active memberships.
 - John- a lot of those are pending renewal.
 - Thomas- for pending renewal, we have 4 listed.
 - Rick- Should I speak at the monthly meetings to encourage people to join?
 - William- in the past, the meeting preamble was long and people requested that the president give all of the updates and present a timeline. If a board member wants something to be transmitted, please let me know and I will add it to the preamble.
 - Rick- I've noticed that no one ever asks for people to join.
 - William- I've never used that language. You are the greeter, so that would be the point where you could be the face to draw in new members.
 - Mitch- you (William) consistently mention that the membership chair is there.
 - Rick- I think it is warm and that people want to be asked, especially at large groups, it is an opportunity.
 - Connie- you (William) usually always invite new members to talk to a board member during the break.
 - Rick- is there a place where member chair duties are described?
 - Bruce- The duties of the membership chair are described in the bylaws.
 - William- one thing that is in there is that the member list is supposed to be published in the newsletter. We should change the by laws.
 - Connie- I don't think many clubs do that anymore to preserve member privacy.
 - Mitch- we are now on Wild Apricot, is this point moot?
 - Connie- that list is only available to board members.
 - Rick- being part of a group is an opportunity to be part of a community so reaching out to other people in the group with the availability of a member list is a good thing.
- f. **Culinary- Occhino** absent
 - William- the dates that have been proposed by Tom are May 11th for Spring culinary because that will be the Sunday after Matt's wild food talk.
 - Connie- isn't that the same day at Mason Neck?
 - William- yes, but we could do both if we have enough people.
 - Agnes- I may be able to Mason Neck again.
 - William- culinary committee has five members, and one member, Steve White, has already requested to move it one week earlier. So, I will respond to them that May

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11th is okay with the board, but that we would recommend that they move it up one week so that I can be at both.

- William- For fall culinary, it could be Sept 8th, to coincide with the Kennett Square mushroom fair.
 - John- is Kennett Square Saturday only?
 - William- I think it is all weekend.
- William- I will let the culinary team decide on the schedule.
 - Bruce- They should be aware that we previously discussed that an all day event is too long and that it is better to have an afternoon event so that there can be a morning foray.
- Connie- I went to a renovated recreation center (Pallisades) past Sibley Hospital that is really nice. The kitchen is beautiful and the meeting room is huge. We can't have meeting there because we have to be out by 8pm, but could do special events like culinary.
 - William- can you send me a statement about that so I can let the culinary committee know?
 - Connie- yeah, can include contact information.
- g. **Programs- McCoy** absent (The program to date is listed below the meeting minutes)
 - William- Tom sent an email and I updated the program notes with his information. The lichen speaker has agreed to lead a lichen foray following her talk (Saturday or Sunday). On weekend of Sept 21st is the Western PA foray. Aside from the culinary dates, the only date unknown is the Mushroom Fair.
 - Connie- we need to lock that in. If we don't have that locked in, we may not get it. It is possible they penciled us in, but we could do it at Pallisades if we don't get Brookside Gardens because that is a busy wedding time for them.
 - John- we were lucky at the end of August last year because we had a lot of rain, but that might not be the case this year. And we moved it to Aug. to move it away from Sequanota, but now the culinary date is not set and now we have Kennett Square foray on the list.
 - William- Just see what is available and grab a date. Any time in Oct. is okay or grab an August date.
 - Bruce- Pick a date when we expect mushrooms to be available.
 - Connie- we should alert members about Walt's book for pre-sale before his talk.
- h. **Forays- Cohen** absent
 - Bruce- if we want to have bags available for sale or for our forays and for WVa foray we need to buy more.
 - William- so we should buy more.
 - Connie- check Trader Joes because they are usually cheap there.
- i. **Newsletter Editor- Roehl**- should have more free time at beginning of Feb to get things put together.
 - Bruce- You plan to have a newsletter ready for end of February? Do you need submissions?
 - Thomas- I'd like a review of the Walt Sturgeon book.
 - William- I sent in an article.
 - John- how is the opt out of mailed newsletter going?
 - Thomas- it is still 50/50.
- j. **NAMA Trustee/NAMA Foray- Boyer** – nothing to report.

III. Unfinished Business

1. Email voting (Hargrave 10 October 2018)

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- William- Is there any disagreement that we use email voting? Wild Apricot has ability to email all members for voting. How we execute this is not important to discuss tonight, but we would have to change the by laws to even be able to do it, so the question tonight is if the board wants to move forward. Current system seems perfunctory to me and this obviates the need to have a quorum at the December meeting.
 - Mitch- the request for nominations from the floor still stands?
 - William- I don't know. Currently the slate is announced at the November meeting, and I ask if there are other nominations. In December, I request that again.
- Bruce- I suggest we table this discussion for tonight. The person who proposed this isn't here.
 - William- I propose it too, I think it is a great idea. I want to get enough information so I can write the bylaw change.
 - Bruce- why not write the proposed by law change first and bring that to the board?
 - William- because I wanted to discuss issues first.
- Mitch- We did have a disputed vote once.
- William- In November we have nominations and request for additional nominations. If there are none, then we can announce that people will receive an email ballot. We could add a write in option. And allow people until the December meeting to reply.
 - Bruce- the problem I see is that once in a while, the nominating committee does not have a complete slate at the Nov. meeting and it takes them two months. If that is the case, we need the ability to identify a full slate and have the ability to nominate from the floor.
 - William- we could do that by email too.
 - Bruce- people should have time to consider if they want to run or to convince someone else to run.
- William- I propose we do the same thing up to November, where we announce a slate. Then we have a two week period for people to provide additional nominations. Then we'd have to revise the list, and I don't see a way to do that.
 - Thomas- we could start the email vote in Dec.
- William- I want to leave the December meeting with a new board. As long as we leave the year with a new board that is all that matters. I will try to draft a by law change to reflect this discussion.
- John- I think it is laudable to have a new board before the end of the year. We don't have to wait until December because no one who has sufficient experience to do this is going to appear in the last to months. Also we may not need a nominating committee if we go electronically. We could let people who want to join the board nominate themselves electronically.
 - Bruce- people like to be invited.
 - Several board members stated that they would not have nominated themselves.
- John- We could leave unfilled positions blank and allow board members to appoint someone.
 - Bruce- The problem in the past is the board would choose the next set of members and then people who weren't chosen felt slighted. The nominating committee finds out the interests of the membership to identify people.
 - Mitch- Being on the nominating committee incentivizes new people to consider being on the board.
- William- the agenda item was to discuss email voting, not the entire nominating process. Lets execute the email voting first, then see what can be done to make the nominating process less cumbersome. Nominating by email could happen later, but we should not go that far yet.
- Mitch- plus we have to put it to the members to approve.

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- William- Yes, the process will take a while. Is there anyone who objects to the idea of online voting?
 - Bruce- I object until I see the proposed by law changes.
- 2. Microscope purchase (Livezey/Board 30 November 2018)
 - William- We decided that having a microscope is a great idea.
 - Connie- Will it have a camera on it?
 - Thomas- I hope so.
 - Rick- and it should plug into the projector.
 - William- So we all agree that a board member should purchase?
 - Rick- I think Shannon should be involved.
 - William- I will contact Shannon.
 - Mitch- are you going to give her a price range?
 - William- I was thinking less than \$1k.
- 3. Meetup Forays (from last board meeting)
 - William- I want to incorporate the Meetup group and have a foray that we just put on Meetup. I can do it in the Columbia area or Carderock area. Need to coordinate with foray chair. I am thinking it should happen in Fall.
 - John- probably good to do it as an Identification only so people wouldn't have an expectation that would have mushrooms to take home.
 - William- want to engage people.
 - John- there are people on Meetup who are busy on Tuesday nights so can never come to meetings.
 - Mitch- I'd like to assist if I am available.
- 4. VHS tape interview (from last board meeting)
 - Thomas- I still have the tape. I watched it. My favorite part is where Star Trek cuts in.
 - Bruce- Is it worth showing at a meeting?
 - Mitch- I thought we were thinking of digitizing it.
 - Thomas- at the beginning there is a 5-minute edited interview, but the unedited version is worthwhile too.
 - William- Is there an edifying principle for MAW members that is worth spreading? Did you get anything out of it?
 - Thomas- I just watched snippets. He talked about how he got into mushroom hunting and when to look for morels.
 - William- So the viewing wouldn't be a MAW event.
 - Bruce- did you learn anything about MAW?
 - Agnes- seems worth digitizing.
 - William- okay, so who is going to do that?
 - John- I can throw it in with a bunch of stuff I want digitized and get a discount.
 - William- so Thomas needs to bring the tape to John.

IV. New Business

1. Vouchers for reimbursements for speaker expenses/travel (Harper 30 November 2018) and Honoraria and Housing Options (McCoy 23 January 2019)
 - John- There is an indistinct understanding of what we are willing to pay for. We need to tell the person who is coming to tell us how much they think it would cost for them to come here and then let us approve it and give them that amount instead of reimbursing costs. We can determine what a reasonable price is.

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- Connie- The majority of our speakers look for the cheapest options.
 - John- Isn't it a package deal? We don't care how much is travel and how much is honoraria.
- William- We may need to table this until Program chair is here. Should there be a hierarchy? Should there be a maximum? Should there be a lowest end? We always pay travel.
 - Connie- I always decided what I thought was reasonable, but I was never comfortable about it.
- Bruce- Tom also wanted to know about housing options.
 - William- So far we have John Harper, Matt and Elizabeth, Bruce, Barbara Karpas.
- 2. Advertisements on website for fungal seminars. (Needham 16 January 2019)
 - William- I got an email from someone wanting us to post something on our website and I am of the feeling that I don't think it is appropriate for us to be a platform for advertising stuff.
 - Bruce- The most I would do is announce it at a meeting if it is something that I thought members would be interested in.
- 3. Problems with website store purchases (McCoy, 21 January 2019)
 - Mitch- I didn't even get an email that I had placed an order. I had to go to my credit card to see if it was charged, and now I am waiting to see if the shirt is delivered. The first time I used it was okay, but if you navigate backwards or forwards to edit the transaction, it was wonky. It may be being worked on.
 - William- Elizabeth is aware.
- 4. Support for STEM expo 17 March 2019 (Barizo, 21 January 2019)
 - William- Connie has done this in the past. Ophelia has invited us to have a booth. Danny is going to go.
 - Connie- it used to be at her school, but it has changed and has gotten bigger.
 - William- what is the throughput?
 - Connie- most are junior high and high school kids.
 - William- Is anyone interested?
 - Connie- I may still be on jury duty.
 - William- I will ask members at the next meeting for volunteers. We should support this.
 - Mitch- I don't know my schedule.
 - Thomas- my work has requested that we don't request time off in March.
- 5. Amendments to By-laws; voting and membership (Needham, 23 January 2019)
 - Discussed above
- 6. Refreshment (Karpas 24 January 2019)
 - Connie- Barbara cannot find cups that are not Styrofoam, and she may not want to supply drinks unless there are better cups. She suggests we ask people to bring their own mugs.
 - William- we will authorize her to spend money and it will be a MAW expense.
 - Connie- she will need to submit a receipt. Since I am no longer on the board, I will likely assist more with refreshments. I think it is good to offer them.

V. Reports of Special Committees, Projects, and Forays

1. Mycoflora Committee - will defer for this month
2. Sequanota Committee (currently an unofficial committee, will discuss later).
3. Culinary Committee – discussed above
4. Identifiers (new = Thomas, Tom, Jared) Listed in Board rules for 2019.

VI. Adjourn at 9:12pm

Upcoming Board Meetings: 30 May - 29 August -24 October

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2019 MAW Events

5 February – Lichens- Manuela Dal Forno

5 March – Fungi 101 – Jared Urchek and Mushroom trip to Spain

17 March STEM Expo Spencerville, Maryland 1100-1500

2 April – Mushrooms of Central Appalachians - Walt Sturgeon

7 May – Wild Foods – Matt Cohen

11 May - Spring Culinary

11 May – Eagle Environmental Festival Mason Neck

30 May Board Meeting

4 June – Mushrooms of South America - Ilan Segal

2 July – Microbiology, molds and mycotoxins - Heather Hallen-Adams

19 July WV Mushroom Foray Blackwater Falls

1 August NEMF Foray Lamar Pennsylvania

6 August – TBD

TBD Mushroom Fair

8-11 August NAMA Foray New York

29 August – Board Meeting

3 September – TBD (maybe ID meeting)

8 September (proposed) Fall Culinary (coincide with Kennett Square weekend)

27 – 29 September Sequanota Weekend Foray

1 October – TBD

24 October Board meeting

5 November – TBD

3 December – TBD