

**RIEEA Board Meeting  
Minutes  
Tuesday, June 9, 2015**

**Board Members Present:** Shareen Knowlton, Samantha Polon, Denise Poyer, Nicole Souza, Wendy Fachon, Molly Allard, Jim Murphy, April Alix, Andrea Stein, Elisabeth Bux, Rachel Holbert

**Other Participants:** Jeanine Silversmith (RIEEA Coordinator), Jane Baumann (SK Land Trust), Kelly Shea (GEMS-Net), Stacey Jackson (Westerly Land Trust), Rupert Friday (RI Land Trust Council), Matt Schenck (Norman Bird Sanctuary), Marc Pagliarini, Lauren L'Esperance (Aquidneck Land Trust), Lisa Maloney (ASRI), Kimberly Sullivan (RIDEM), Crystal Noiseur (RIRR) Kelly (Zoo),

**Site:** Norman Bird Sanctuary, Middletown RI

**Coffee and Conversation:** Andrea led a discussion regarding working with home school education groups.

**Welcome/Introductions:**

- Jane and Rupert discussed function of the RI Land Trust Council and Land Trusts and explained Land Trust Days. Other land trusts explained they are looking for help doing programs on their properties. Some are looking to work with after school groups. RIASPA was suggested as a resource.
- Ocean State Bird Club is looking for places to do walks. [www.oceanstatebirdclub.org](http://www.oceanstatebirdclub.org). Contact Matt [mschenckee@gmail.com](mailto:mschenckee@gmail.com).
- June 30 and July 1 GEMS-Net is doing a teacher leader group workshop at Alton Jones Campus. They are looking for volunteers to provide naturalist programs. Contact Kelly Shea ([kellyshea@uri.edu](mailto:kellyshea@uri.edu)).
- Zoo has a nature swap that encourages families to go out to nature trails and look for natural artifacts. Every month they partner with other groups to do a quest for the families involved with the program.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Minutes from April 14, 2015 and May 12, 2015 were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** \$5608.09 in our account. This is after a paypal transfer of \$96.49 and Jeanine's check for her April work.

**Membership Report:** One new organizational group membership and one individual membership. We now have 30 individual members and 34 organizational members. For reference we had 27 organizational members and 24 individual members in 2014.

**Professional Development Committee update: (Chair – Andrea Stein)**

- Looking to do networking events and possibly a fundraising event.
  - Looked into Flatbread Company but they are booked until 2016.

- Molly is working to book an event at b.good restaurant in Garden City on July 28 from 6 to 8 pm. Molly will let us know when it is confirmed. Twenty percent of the sales during the time will go towards RIEEA.
- Crazy Burger is also offering Make a Difference Monday which will give ten percent to a non-profit.
- Will start an award to be given at our annual meeting for formal and non-formal educators.
- Create and collaborate workshop will be offered in the fall focused on NGSS.
  - If this works we may institute a quarterly workshop.

#### **Website & Social Media update: (Chair – April Alix)**

- Assessed which social media was gaining the most interest, which determined that the website was getting the most hits. Suggest that we send interesting articles to April and Jeanine to post on social media. Idea suggested that we could start a contest to do selfies in nature.
- If you see something from RIEEA please share it, like it, comment, and click on it. This elevates the RIEEA standing on social media.
- Over 1500 individual users per month, usually directly to the home page. Many go to contacts, resource guide, and jobs posting.
- List serv: Peter McLaren is creating a listserv based on the RIDE server. We will be switching from Yahoo groups as soon as this is up and running. Emails will go out to the current group about signing up and unsubscribing from yahoo during the summer.
- Jeanine is creating a document with all accounts and passwords for future board administrations.
- Would like to be able to share data that could be used by teachers on RIEEA media.
  - It was suggested that we host a resource page on our website.

#### **ELP: (Chair – Shareen Knowlton)**

- Meeting with Terry Bisson and Kim Sullivan from RIDEM, Gina Fuller from the Westerly School committee, Meg Kerr and Barbara Cardiff, to discuss what is happening ELP in RI.
- Meeting with RIF for project to pull together a team of stakeholders for a summit that will
  - To define environmental literacy for our state
  - Develop a study to show correlation between EE and classroom improvement as well as other things.

#### **Organizational**

- During the summer we need to:
- Nominate Vice President
- Create budget for 2015
- Start strategic planning

#### **NEEEA Update:**

- Two nominees for the board members from RI: Sam and Rachel
  - Board voted unanimously to appoint them to NEEEA board.

**Announcements:**

RIC is welcoming Queen Elisabeth on June 18.

Children's Museum is opening My Sky exhibit June 12.

Jeanine's family hiking guide will be coming out next month.

RIDEM starts Great Outdoor Pursuit will start June 13 at Lincoln Woods.

**Next meeting** –Tuesday, October 13            4:00 – 6:00 pm            RWP Zoo (includes Jack o  
Lantern)

- October meeting at Zoo at the end of the day to see the Jack-O-Lanterns
- RIEEA board can access trails for no charge, others can access trails for the group rate and can go to head of line.
- November will be the Empowerment Factory
- December will be SK Barn

**2016**

- Need to set annual meeting site in Sept 2015
- Next spring RIEEA meeting or pd workshop could be scheduled to coincide with GEMS-Net Leader workshop.