

**RIEEA Board Meeting  
Minutes  
Tuesday, March 10, 2015**

**Board Members Present:** April Alex, Rupa Data, Rachel Holbert, Shareen Knowlton, Bridget Prescott, Samantha Polon, Denise Poyer, Nicole Souza, Andrea Stein, Kristen Swanberg, Wendy Fachon, Molly Allard, Elizabeth Bux, Paul Dolan

**Other Participants:** Jeanine Silversmith (RIEEA Coordinator), Lauren Parmelee, Carol Sullivan, John Gendron

**Site:** Save The Bay

**Welcome/Introductions**

**Flower Show Wrap-up:** RIEEA won Third Place in Critiques Judging for non-profit; Third Place for viewers favorites. Budget still being worked out, but it looks like we will come in under budget. We've been asked to come back next year.

We could expand the Fifth Floor offerings and provide vignettes. Activities were most well attended on Friday and Sat morning. Activities from this year's show could be used for next year fifth floor. Suggestions include fence weaving, fort building, fairy house. Other popular activities were the STB Touch Tank, and Girl Scout Tent.

Flower Show did not fulfill name and product placement for RIEEA as promised. We would keep this in mind when negotiating for next year. Possible theme for next year is classic board games. We may have to commit by May or June.

Send to Jeanine any photos that include the building process as well as Flower Show. We would also like to document where the RIEEA Garden elements went to.

Suggestion was made to develop a booklet of how to do all the elements of the RIEEA Garden and sell it as a fundraiser or free download. This would be similar to a community cookbook. Make it available as a pdf through Etsy. Jeanine can pull together all that information.

Outdoor classroom completion had 4 entries, due to problem with snow days. All entries were unique and special. Winner was the Charles Fortes elementary school in Providence. We should follow up to document the project and post on RIEEA website. Flower Show would like to see this contest continued.

We could do a presentation at NAAEE conference, Ed Spaces, and other similar conferences to show how we used the Flower Show to promote EE.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** February 2015 minutes approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance is \$11,244 in our RIEEA account. Finances are still being settled for the Flower Show. Anyone who purchases items for Flower Show needs to fill out an expense sheet to give to Bridget, along with receipts.

**Membership Report:** One new individual member, 4 schools from the Design contest. Donovan Dining Center, RIC will join.

**Website & Social Media update:**

Lots of likes through the flower show. 4 followers on Pintrest. Send interesting activities to April.

Facebook is pretty established. Need to promote our Twitter and Pintrest.

**Professional Development Committee update:** April will do a tutorial on social media at the next RIEEA meeting in April. \$100 scholarship award to Tracy Hall to attend American Camp Association

April and Andrea presented at RISTA . National Association of biology teachers will hold their conference in Providence this year. Proposals do this week.

A new proposal for a charter school is trying to get approval in Providence focusing on place based education. They are looking for any RIEEA member who is personally interested and wants to help with this process.

**ELP:** Discussed with a consultant (Johnny Frasier) to create a tool to assess environmental literacy and its relationship to academic success. Initial proposal did not meet specifications and will follow up with consultant. Jenny Periera from RIF believes she can get a grant (\$20,000) to do a well done summit. We should have two groups at this summit – thinkers and doers. Timeline needs to be worked out once we have an appropriate proposal. Need to attract participants who can add a lot of weight to the summit. This would include people who are politically connected in the education.

**NEEEA – EPA Grant update:** NEEAA put in EPA for a regional climate change professional development series. Goal is to increase knowledge of climate change in different professions and how it can affect their work going forward. Then take elements of the PDF class and make it available for those who could not attend. Each state had to designate subgrant partner. RIEEA would be Green Building Development Council.

NEEEA Conference in Waterville Valley Conference Center in New Hampshire Nov. 8 to 10, 2015.

RI at large rep has stepped off and Kristen will be stepping off soon. Need two new reps.

**Other:** *Be Good* restaurant in Cranston is doing non-profit fundraising nights. This may be a way to raise funds for Annual Meeting speaker or professional development funds.

Jeanine had conversation with Pieces Foundation in SF, who is interested in hearing about NGSS can be meet with EE.

Some RIEEA board members have been invited to be on task force for STEAM centers. It is planning committee that brings together different community components such as manufacturing and businesses with educators to promote STEAM.

Reviewed RIEEA Strategic Planning. Discussed next steps.

Loren will explore with RIF possibility of getting a grant to hire a David Karoff to facilitate planning process.

Suggestion made to hold networking events in the evening to help connect others to RIEEA. Molly will work with PD to schedule.

Another suggestion to hold an afternoon event at the Zoo as a thank you to all the volunteers who helped for the Flower Show. Shareen will schedule based on availability. Would be good to have photos by then.

April and Andrea are running a workshop for Providence school teachers. There are 10 spots left open to Providence school teachers only.

**Next meeting** – Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at Acopia Harvest, 708 Broad Street, Central Falls, RI