

RIEEA Board Meeting

May 10, 2016

Board Members Present: Molly Allard, Jim Murphy, Elisabeth Bux, Sam Polon, Lauren Parmelee, Kelly Shea (taking notes)

Other Participants: Kim Hapgood, Dave Martin, Jeanine Silversmith

Location: Relocated from EcoBus to the Gather's Glassblowing Studio

Coffee and Conversation: postponed until next meeting: will focus on NEEEA

Approval of Meeting Minutes: This will be done via email since there was not a quorum.

Treasurer's Report: Currently account has \$24,497.88

- Deposited \$3,387.46 in April which consisted of reimbursement from Climate Change workshop, memberships, and a donation from the Unitarian Church from Jeanine's guest sermon (Elisabeth will send a thank you note).
- 1,459.43 spent – flower show and JS
- Expenses- \$1,459.43 which included Flower Show expenditures and consultant fee.

Membership Update (Jeanine):

- One new organizational member: Blackstone Park Conservancy.
- Two new individual members including Dave Martin.
- Total number of Organizational Members= 47
- Total number of Individual Members= 35

New Member Introduction

Dave Martin/ URI GSO: Project to produce an educational tool – game for students 12-18 about coastal environmental issues; Interested in learning about age group teaching and learning.

Marketing and Communication Committee – status quo – We can post to the listserv, Jeanine will put out a reminder that members can share via listserv AND that if you reply it goes out to the whole community.

Professional Development Committee

Project Learning Tree Update:

- Moving forward. They are all very excited to have RIEEA as a partner. Tree Farm Assoc. will be the go between Tree farms (for field trip opportunities) and PLT Coordinator (Jeanine).
- Include Tree Farm Association when advertising PLT.

- Would like a port-o-potty on site during field trips (\$100 per day). This will be covered by remaining PLT funds in Tree Farm Association budget .
- Bio-diversity – not Christmas Tree farms. Selective cutting, management and purpose for land/farm depend on the landowner.
- Setting dates for workshops for early August. Not set yet until PLT staff can coordinate PD – PLT staff will come to facilitate the first round so that our team can learn how to run the workshop. Train the trainer and participants all at once.
- Expecting about 25 participants per day and have a round of field trip opportunities during the year and then reapply for the grant again for the following year.
- Scituate High School is a tree farm and holds field trips. Also has an outdoor classroom. Jeanine will reach out to Shannon Donovan to see if we can possibly have our workshops there.
- Jeanine is joining the conference in Utah – PLT Coordinator Conference.
- RIC is Arbor Day Tree Campus – Environmental studies students tag and identify. Check out Rhodytrees.org for arboretum information.

Flat Bread Networking Event

- July 5th
- Anyone who eats at Flatbread from 5pm on will be supporting RIEEA.
- Will have RIEEA display, name tags for Board Members, seed paper for participants.
- Sam and Gail Ahlers will be making our banner.

Brown University

- Partnering with Dan Bisaccio from Brown to bring Children and Nature Network in to speak. Still discussing.

NGSS workshop for Informal Educators

- led by Simone Palmer, Science & Technology Specialist at RIDE
- at Annual Meeting possibly

Roundtable Potluck

- We are planning another one in the Fall – stay tuned.

Land Trust/Watershed Associations

- Some RIEEA members presented at the Land and Water Summit to those land trusts and watershed associations that want to create or expand their education programs.
- RI Audubon partnering with Westerly Land Trust which may lead to engaging more Land Trust properties.
- Brainstorm ideas about how to support and reach out. Possible direct outreach or a Summit, how do we invite and get them to the RIEEA meetings?

- Possibility of PD specifically for Land trust and Watersheds staff given by RIEEA.
- Jeanine and Lauren will speak to Rupert Friday from the RI Land Trust Council about this.

Environmental Literacy Plan (ELP) Committee

RIDE Informal Educators Focus Group

- Lauren, Jeanine, Andrea, and Bridget attended.
- Simone Palmer is reaching out to all stakeholders.
- What do we need from RIDE? NGSS?
- As we move towards rewriting the ELP we will have some support from RIDE. Feel that Simone is gathering information and making partnerships.

PISCES Foundation

- Large scale funding of environmental projects, as well as smaller grants.
- Interested in promoting ELPs specifically as they relate to NGSS.
- Inviting them to the Summit.
- Potential funding for the ELP rewrite. Phone conversation scheduled. They fund through invitation. They have reached out but not yet invited us but looks like it is potential avenue.
- They asked that we tell them what we think a rewrite might cost. Elisabeth and Lauren will look into what the original grants were for.

Environmental Literacy Assessment Planning Summit

- Save the Dates going out to everyone on the list.
- NAAEE is giving us \$3000 to support the travel budget for out-of-town guests. Working on hotel discounts.
- New Knowledge will be sending information and materials for the Summit in the next week. We will then take a look at those and have a conversation with New Knowledge.
- Next steps – fine tuning and logistics (i.e. food, travel, meet-and-greet, etc.)

Climate Change Education

- Last piece in grant is to compile descriptions of success stories.
- Send ideas to Jeanine about some workshop participants to be part of this.
- Will be highlighted in final report and presented at NEEEA Conference.

NEEEA Update

- Last NEEEA meeting was at the RWP Zoo – not a big attendance.
- Two New England states currently don't have databases and want NEEEA to merge all 6 states; basically everyone would redo their existing databases so that they can feed into bigger database. Rachel and Sam are trying to get them to do their own and link to each state rather than one database.

Doesn't have to be expensive. Hopefully support the states that do not have their own database yet.

- NEEEA needs to do a newsletter...funding for someone to do a monthly newsletter. Jeanine interested.
- The NEEEA web-site needs to be retooled in order to be useful.
- Sam was nominated to the fundraising committee.
- NEEEA conference at Common Ground High School, diverse population, great conversations, important issues discussed. Hoping can continue the momentum.
- Next year's conference is going to be a non-state conference. NEEEA will run the conference, possible central Massachusetts at the conference center. Advocating for somewhere that housing is included to enhance the personal networking.

Flower Show

- The committee met and decided that it was not worth the energy, time, and money to rent out pieces of the Kids Adventure Zone. We would, however, be willing to rent out the entire exhibit for \$2,000. This would include delivery, set up, supervising, and breakdown. Feedback from a few organizations on whether this would be feasible was mixed.
- If we are not doing Flower Show in 2017, then it's not realistic to keep the storage space. Still waiting to hear what is going on with the sale of the Flower Show.
- Still waiting for the last Flower Show payment. Dream Design school winners still waiting on payments from Flower Show too.

Notes/Announcements

- NAAEE sending a letter to support funding getting funneled into EE – Elisabeth signed RIEEA onto the list.
- Brown University Swearer Center Mentor program where students go into schools and teach environmental issues wondering if RIEEA would be interested in being part. Not sure that fits with RIEEA goals but Elisabeth might send e-mail to offer to meet and discuss this or other opportunities for collaboration.
- This Thursday, the USFWS will be designating first RI Schoolyard Habitat at George West Elementary in Providence at 9:30 am – all welcome to the celebration.