

**DRAFT**  
**RIEEA Board Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 8, 2015**

**Board Members Present:** Samantha Polon, Denise Poyer, Nicole Souza, Wendy Fachon, Jim Murphy, April Alix, Andrea Stein, Elisabeth Bux, Rachel Holbert, Bridget Kubis Prescott, Rupa Datta

**Other Participants:** Jeanine Silversmith (RIEEA Coordinator), Kelly Shea (GEMS-Net), Sara Sweetman (GEMS-Net) Lisa Maloney (ASRI), Reada Sullivan, Lauren Parmelee, Jessica Wurzbacher, (OPH), Elizabeth Brigham, Matt Schenck (NBS), Marc Pagliarini Lisa Maloney (ASRI), Krystal Noiseux (RIRR), Kelly don't know her last name (Zoo), Eric Spicer (OHP)

**Site:** Oliver Hazard Perry Boat, Portsmouth, RI

**Coffee and Conversation:** Andrea led a discussion regarding professional development for EE educators.

**Welcome/Introductions:**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Minutes from June 9, 2015 were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** \$7423.70 (should end with \$6572 once all checks are cleared)

**Membership Report:** Two new individual and two new organization members (WattSun Solar and New England Science & Sailing).

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

- B-Good event went well – made \$262.72.
- Looking into holding another social at Flat Bread Company in the winter
- Oct. 13 meeting at Zoo will include GEMS-Net Teacher Leaders
- Holding another competition with schools with DownCity Design for the 2016 Flower Show

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

- Committee is liking new organization members on social media.
- Please let Jeanine know if there are any problems with the website.
- Renewing org listings on the database is proving to be difficult and counter-intuitive. Jeanine checks weekly to make sure no orgs expire, but the committee will consider hiring Lisa Work (RIEEA's web designer) to fix this issue.

**ELP: (Chair – Shareen Knowlton)**

- Met with RIF to determine feasibility of Environmental Literacy Assessment Summit proposal (questions are: what is environmental literacy and how does it relate to school

outcomes). Want to hire Johnny Frazier, which will be close to \$10,000. Actual ask for initial summit will go to RIF this month for \$20,000.

- Plans are after summit RIEEA would apply to NSF to implement large study.
- Possibility of using Doctoral students looking for dissertations.

### **Organizational**

- Approved 2015 Budget

### **NEEEA Update:**

- EPA grant to NEEEA was approved. RIEEA will be working with the Green Building Council of RI.
- Conference in November.
- Two RIEEA board members will be new NEEEA board representatives soon (they are going through process).

### **2016 Flower Show**

- RIEEA will not be doing an exhibit on the garden floor. Rather, we will organize the children's area/activities and have a vignette.
- Feb 18 to 21, 2016
- Shareen will chair Flower Show Committee
  - Andrea
  - Samantha
  - Nikki
  - April
  - Reada
  - Lisa
  - Jeanine
- Flower Show will pay RIEEA \$2500 for fifth floor Children's Activities
  - Will include some of the easy elements from 2015 exhibit
  - Will include rotunda room and area in front of the rotunda room
  - Will need to be manned 11 am to 4 pm
  - Member orgs can still have 45 minute slots for activities such as puppet shows, story times, animal encounters, etc.
- \$800 for vignettes – which will be mail boxes on the Flower Show floor
  - Charge organizations \$100 again as a fund raising option
- Other:
  - School design piece will stay (see above)
  - Need to make a list of exactly what we want for exposure so that it can become part of the MOU.

### **GEMS-Net Partnership (Sara Sweetman, URI Education Professor)**

- Teachers love having RIEEA members at the teacher training workshop
- Informal education needs to be aligned with core curriculum in order to receive funding
- Will send out workshop schedule. RIEEA can come any time during the workshop or stay for the whole workshop

- GEMS-Net is growing in the state with the mission of supporting school districts in their STEM curriculums
  - Burriville
  - Chariho
  - Cumberland
  - Foster
  - Exeter-West Greenwich
  - Jamestown
  - Narragansett
  - North Kingstown
  - Paul Cuffee School (Charter in Providence)
  - South Kingstown
  - Westerly
- web-site [uri.edu/hss/gemsnet](http://uri.edu/hss/gemsnet)
- URI Education Department is revamping their program to have an educational studies major which can go on teacher certification track or non-certification track and need to take 3 science courses.
  - Would like to offer several courses where URI Science professor would be paired with EE educators to design and teach a science course
  - Would like to be able to place students with an EE organization as one year internship for those not on a cert track.
  - Timing (optimistically) would be to design courses starting Fall 2016 for implementation fall 2017
  - Will be looking for letters of support and attending meetings.
- GEMS-Net would like to have experts from RIEEA for each of the modules.
  - Twenty-first birthday celebration at the Ryan Center on April 30, 2016. All RI families can come to experience the modules their children are using to learn science. Possibility of having experts connected to the modules at the fair.

**Announcements:**

- Jeanine Silversmith wrote a book for Families in Nature “The Rhode Island Family Hiking Guide and Journal”.
  - Sept 27 1 to 3 pm will be book launch and hike at Kettle Pond Visitor’s Center.

**Next meeting** – Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at Roger Williams Park Zoo from 4 to 6:30 pm.

- RIEEA board can access trails for no charge, others can access trails for the group rate and can go to head of line. More information will be sent out.
- GEMS-Net Teacher Leader meeting will be from 4:30 to 6:30
- RIEEA will have our regular business meeting from 4 to 5:30 and then join this meeting at 5:30 to 6:30.
- RIEEA members might also attend earlier portion of the Teacher Leader meeting to discuss the April 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party.

**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.