

2021 Annual Member Business Meeting Minutes

Northeast Horticultural Therapy Network

November 14, 2021

Present (via Zoom): Lynn Zeltman, Erin Backus, Kathy Perry, Colleen Griffin, Alan Eddy, Deirdre Murphy, Deborah Krause, Laura Rumpf, Hilda Krus, Marianne DiBlasi, Sally Gruber, Noel

Meeting opened at 7:05 pm EST.

President's Report (Erin): Erin commenced the meeting with a welcome. Each participant introduced themselves.

This past year, Erin has: led monthly meetings with the board; continued to update the website; sent out newsletters and e-blasts to the membership; and shared information from other regional HT groups. Virtual workshops/social gatherings this year have included a *Get Growing* membership drive in March, as well as a joint NEHTN/MAHTN webinar in April, featuring a virtual site visit of RestStopRanch with NEHTN member Mary MacDonald. In July, the network also offered a successful virtual workshop titled *The Secret Gardens of NEHTN*. In October, NEHTN was the only regional group to participate in the AHTA/IPPS preconference poster session.

The board has been working with a graphic designer to create a new NEHTN logo. Erin shared the two design options. Erin will send an email to members so that they can vote for one of the two logo options. The hope is to have a conclusion to the vote by the beginning of the 2022.

Erin will be sending out a membership email asking for input about upcoming workshops. Are members comfortable returning to in-person workshops in 2022, and if so, what are some ideas on possible locations and Covid 19 safety protocols? If members are more comfortable with virtual formats, Erin would like suggestions on possible topics/speakers.

Erin stated that the board is looking for ways to increase membership benefits in 2022. She encouraged members to reach out to herself, Alan, or Deborah, to submit activities for the *HT Activity Guide*.

Erin stated that NEHTN is looking for a new secretary to serve on the board of directors. Kathy is stepping down, but will continue to serve as secretary until a replacement takes over.

Erin reviewed the available NEHTN HT student scholarship and HT program grant, which are described on the NEHTN website under Education (including downloadable application forms). There were no applicants in 2021. The student scholarship deadline is July 15th, the program grant deadline is November 1st. Erin encouraged members to get the word out about these two offerings. Information on past recipients, including Holly Marron, is also available on the website.

Treasurer's report (Lynn): The current balance in the NEHTN account is \$2,670.97, with one new membership fee pending transfer from STRIPE. Since November 1, 2020, \$557.92 has been spent on the NEHTN website, which represents the majority of NEHTN's expenses. Other expenses include: Zoom meetings; the post office box; and printing/postage for the *HT Activity Guide* and *Plant Care Manual*.

Social media Report (Deirdre): Deirdre is managing NEHTN's social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. She is still learning about the Instagram platform. She invited everyone to follow our accounts. Deirdre posts items of interest related to the HT profession, projects, and events. She welcomes members to interact with and share on the NEHTN social media sites.

Membership Report (Colleen): 2021 has been a positive year for NEHTN membership, with a modest gain in numbers. NEHTN currently has 50 plus members in good standing. The hope for 2022 is to continue to increase the membership. A new benefit has been the quarterly newsletter. The next newsletter is scheduled to come out in December. Colleen is working to increase membership benefits, including a free resource library. More information about the resource library will be coming in the beginning of 2022.

Fundraising (Alan): The current NEHTN *HT Activity Guide (2018)* had a modest price increase in August, 2020. 29 copies were sold before the price increase, 15 copies were sold after the price increase. 10 copies have been sold in 2021 so far (about one per month). The *Plant Care Manual (August, 2020)* has sold a total of 9 so far, with 5 downloads (3 black and white, 1 color). NEHTN is hoping to increase sales of these publications with more publicity. A new *HT Activity Guide* will be coming out in 2022. A preliminary Table of Contents will be printed in the December newsletter. At this time, there are 7 activities from 4 contributors; by the end of this week, there will be 9 activities from 5 contributors.

Member Announcements:

-Deirdre announced that Tower Hill Botanical Garden is looking for people interested in presenting workshops.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Perry, Secretary

11/28/2021

