

Meeting Minutes
Northeast Horticultural Therapy Network Quarterly Meeting and Workshop
April 21, 2018
NYU Langone Health, The Rusk Institute, New York, New York
Host: Gwenn Fried, HTR

BOD Members In Attendance: Eric Backus, Valerie Barrett, Lorraine Brisson, Kathy Perry, Lynn Zeltman,
NEHTN Members in Attendance: Irene Barber, Nora Curry, Gwenn Fried, Danielle Giaime, Gail Hamm, Elle Lobatto
NYU Staff and Intern Volunteers: Lori Bloomberg, Margaret Dwyer, Catherine Graham-Kohler, Peter Moffatt and Mary Viennese

1. Meeting began at 10:00 am with each group member introducing themselves.
2. Gwenn shared the history of the horticultural therapy program at NYU Langone, including how the destruction of the greenhouse from Hurricane Sandy has led to a shift to integrated programming on patient floors as well as in the community. She also shared forms used by NYU Langone horticultural therapy staff in HT Activity Planning.
3. A tour of the facility was led by horticultural therapists who work at NYU Langone.
4. Therapeutic Activity Demonstration: Margaret Dwyer, HTR, a staff member at NYU Langone, led the group in a treatment session, propagating *Pedilanthus tithymaloides*, using the script, tools, and methods she uses with her clients with memory impairment.
5. After lunch, Lorraine Brisson, HTM on her final day as NEHTN President, called the meeting to order. The minutes from the 10/31/17 meeting were approved. Topics discussed were as follows:
 - A. President's Report:
 1. AHTA made \$6,000.00 at the national AHTA conference in Vermont last September, which NEHTN hosted. Just under \$2,000.00 was made at the Silent Auction, the rest of the funds were primarily from members (no big sponsors).
 2. HTI will be offering their three remaining certificate classes for Horticultural Therapy in November and December in Colorado and California. Detailed information is outlined on their flyer under the Education section of our NEHTN website.
 3. The Needham Senior Center is looking for an HTR to work with a group of 10 people, preferably in June or July. Further information will be emailed to the NEHTN membership.
 4. The NEHTN summer workshop/meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2018 at the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden. Irene Barber, HTR, is the host. She is considering coordinating the NEHTN meeting with a Garden Party to benefit AHTA fundraising for a certification exam (\$17,000 is needed). A possibility is to have the meeting during the day, and the Garden Party in the evening. Irene asked for volunteers to serve on a committee to organize the Garden Party. Kathy Perry volunteered to serve on the committee.
 5. NEHTN is looking for a location for the fall meeting/workshop, scheduled for early November, 2018.

B. Vice President's Report (Valerie Barrett):

- The NEHTN website is up-to-date. Valerie requested demographic updates from members, but would like to limit updates to one per month to minimize costs. Last month's fees were \$10.00 for updates. Next month with June membership renewals, information for our upcoming August workshop at Coastal Maine Botanical Garden and updates we should be on budget.
- A new section of the website is Member News. Valerie requested that members send new information to include in the Member News.
- Membership renewals will be held during the month of June. No need to include a membership application form unless you have changes you would like made to your directory listing.
- We are looking to increase our number of Institutional Memberships, which are \$50.00 per institution, and includes the benefit of 3 memberships for people from that institution, as well as free advertising on our website.
- An NEHTN member private chat room was set up on our website as requested by a member at the Silver Hill workshop titled "Ask a Member" but so far nobody has used it. There is no message alert system associated with it, and it requires ongoing maintenance, such as the addition and deletion of members. The meeting participants agreed that the chat room is not necessary, as there are more efficient methods of contacting others.
- Social Media Coordinator: Deirdra Wallin, HTR has resigned her post as Facebook coordinator as of today. Erin Backus, HTR agreed to coordinate our NEHTN Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts.

C. Treasurer's Report: (from Judy Murray, in absentia)

- There is currently \$1,001.98 in the NEHTN account, up \$43.44 since 10/30/17.
- Income from 10/30/17 to 4/21/18 was \$569.81.
- Expenses from 10/30/17 to 4/21/18 were \$526.37.
- NEHTN has earned \$100.00 on our Activity Guide. Hopefully, the guides will continue to sell (\$10.00 apiece for 5 downloads, \$15 per b/w copy if purchased at workshop).

D. Social Media Coordinator: (Erin Backus, HTR)

- Facebook – NEHTN has 241 followers, 5 institutional members, and 45 individual members.
- Instagram – NEHTN has 49 followers. Erin encourages members to try Instagram takeover of the NEHTN account to show HT in action.
- Twitter is now seen as more popular than Facebook or Instagram. We have 17 followers on Twitter, including AHTA. Our Twitter account is @NEHortTherapy.
- Erin will try to link our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts.

E. New Board Members:

- Lynn Zeltman, HTR will take over the position of Treasurer. Thank you to Judy Murray for her many years of service.
- Danielle Giaime will take over the position of Membership Coordinator. Thank you to Deirdra Wallin, HTR for her service.
- Erin Backus, HTR volunteered to become our new NEHTN President, as well as Social Media Coordinator! Thank you to Lorraine Brisson, HTR for being our President since 2000! Lorraine will continue to support NEHTN as Past President.
- Valerie Barrett, HTR will continue as Vice President for the time being to assure a smooth transition – thank you, Valerie!
- Kathy Perry, HTR will continue as Secretary.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Perry, HTR
4/29/2018