

Northeast Horticultural Therapy Network
Business Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2017
Monarch School of New England, Rochester, New Hampshire

In Attendance:

BOD/Officers: Lorraine Brisson, Judy Murray, Kathy Perry, Erin Backus,

Attendees: Elizabeth Brink, Lynn Zeltman, Diane Bessey, Elaine Deschambeault, Colleen Griffin, Marie Melanson, Keiko Gilson, Sandy Hawkins, Sandi Lutts, Sally Gruber, Lisa Biggio, Yasuko Voccio, Irene Barber, Deborah Krause

Meeting called to order: 1:15 pm

Old Business: Minutes of march 12, 2017 Business meeting approved.

President

1. Due to increased operating costs (e.g. cost of installing new website) NEHTN needs to raise more money. As a result, the following increases were approved:

Annual membership dues (there are currently 70 members)

-Individuals \$25.00

-Students \$15.00

-Institutions \$50.00

Workshop fees:

-Member \$30.00

- Non- members \$35.00

-Participant \$10.00

2. It was agreed that in the NEHTN mission statement, the word "its" will be changed to the word "our." The mission statement now reads:

The Northeast Horticultural Therapy Network (NEHTN) is a professional organization whose mission is to serve our members and the public by promoting and advancing the use of horticulture as an effective therapy through advocacy, education and financial support.

3. NEHTN will print new brochures for the conference. A suggestion was made to provide libraries with our new brochure.
4. A recommendation was made to add a request for donations to the website.
5. The upcoming national AHTA conference, which NEHTN is sponsoring in Burlington, VT, was discussed. Regional groups are no longer given a table. In order to be given a table, you must be a "gold level" sponsor by paying \$1,000. Irene mentioned that such sponsorship tables are more appropriate for companies than regional networks. However, Lorraine has been conducting a

fundraising campaign so that NEHTN can be a gold level sponsor. She has currently raised \$750.00. Gold level sponsors receive:

- Two free conference registrations
- One exhibit space
- Display of company name and logo in marketing and event materials
- 1/4-page ad space in conference program
- Display of company name and logo on AHTA website
- Opportunity to send promotional materials to be handed out to attendees

Vice-President

Lorraine read the Vice President's report from Valerie Barrett.

1. Website - Valerie has dedicated the past many months on our new website to produce an outstanding product. Attendees were encouraged to visit our website. Members have been notified of their computer-generated password designed to prohibit hacking, which they can change to whatever they'd like.
2. AHTA National Conference: the national conference committee has reviewed and accepted 35 proposals, some from other countries. Five people from NEHTN are presenting: Lorraine Brisson, Elizabeth Diehl, Gwenn Fried, Deborah Krause and Ann Meore. The conference schedule has been posted on the AHTA website. People were encouraged to register early so as not be shut out of preferred sessions.

The Thursday pre-conference tours will fill quickly, with only 52 seats on the bus. Members should register for the tours as soon as possible. There will also be a gathering on Thursday evening. Possibilities are a Lake Champlain ferry tour for \$8.00 which leaves at 5:30 p.m. or a get together at Battery Park.

Silent Auction Basket donations are still being accepted.

A question was presented whether conference participants can get their AHTA discount if they shop directly at Gardener's Supply during the pre-conference tour. Lorraine will inquire from AHTA.

3. Horticultural Therapy Institute will be offering an introductory HT course at Perkins School for the Blind, November 16 to 19, 2017. Deborah Krause said that they would like NEHTN to coordinate a welcome reception for the course.
4. The Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired has produced a documentary regarding living with blindness, featuring Donna Covais and her husband. We plan to upload to our UTube link and feature on our soon to be "Member News" section.
5. Attendees were asked to submit newsworthy notes of themselves or their program for posting on the upcoming "Member News" section.

Treasurer:

Judy Murray reported that NEHTN currently has a balance of \$1,666.62 in the bank account. The network has just started taking payments online. Judy also requested that another member take on the role of treasurer, due to her busy life. She has served as treasurer since 2011.

Membership:

The membership report, provided by Deirdra Wallin, was read by Lorraine. We currently have 70 members. Membership renewal starts July 1st at the new fee of \$25.00; if you pay before July 1st, the fee is \$20.00. Our Facebook page now has 197 “likes.”

Erin Backus reported on the NEHTN Instagram account. She is proposing that the members take turns participating in an Instagram Takeover, giving a brief bio, and posting photos from their HT jobs, nature, leisure time – what are different members doing in their lives? Erin will give us the password to the NEHTN Instagram page when it is our turn to “takeover.”

HT Activity Guide:

Lorraine read Gwenn Fried’s report: We currently have 12 projects with more promised. A final reminder will be sent out as a reminder. There is a template available. The editing process will begin in late June. Printing will be handled by NYU.

Display Board

Deborah Krause is still looking for donations (jpeg photos, brochures, small HT projects) for NEHTN’s new display board. She would like 1-2 items from each state in the northeast region. Perkin’s graphic designer has offered to help her lay out the board, free of charge. Deborah will be putting together the display board this summer. She is attempting to get a donation for a new board, but can also borrow a board from Perkins.

New Business:

The next NEHTN quarterly workshop/meeting will be on September 30 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Acton Arboretum, hosted by Cathy Fochtman.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Perry, HTR
7/15/2017