

## Meeting Minutes

### Northeast Horticultural Therapy Network Quarterly Meeting and Workshop

November 2, 2019

Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston, Massachusetts

Host: Lorraine Lee

#### In Attendance:

Board of Directors: Lisa Biggio, Lynn Zeltman, Kathy Perry

NEHTN Members: Colleen Griffin, Mary MacDonald, Keelan Parker, Martha Weiss, Linda Fuchs, Sally Gruber

#### Minutes:

The meeting was called to order by Lisa Biggio, Vice President, at 12:25 pm. The minutes from the 7/13/19 meeting at Bartlett Arboretum were read by Kathy Perry, Secretary. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

#### Old Business:

- A. President's Report (presented by Lisa Biggio, Vice President, as Erin Backus, President, was unable to attend today's workshop due to work obligations).
  1. Fundraising
    - a. 25 Activity Guides have been sold to date.
    - b. As recommended by NEHTN Fundraising Coordinator, Irene Barner, Green Thumb Sales will now be included at the NEHTN workshops, in which members may bring items of interest to sell to other participants, with the proceeds benefiting NEHTN. Suggested items include: garden/horticultural therapy related books, tools, supplies, and crafts.
    - c. The Plant Care Manual written by NEHTN member Alan Eddy, will be available for purchase as a NEHTN fundraiser, once the final revisions are complete.
  2. Membership
    - a. NEHTN added 14 new members in 2019. Since July 13, 2019, Mary MacDonald and Joan Squitieri have joined. NEHTN now has a total of 52 members, with the following breakdown:
      - Institutional Members: 6
      - Student Members: 6
      - Senior Member: 1
      - Regular Members: 39

a. Erin requests that all members keep current with their membership dues – “It is because of YOU that we are NEHTN!”

### 3. Social Media

Thanks to Deirdre Murphy, Social Media Coordinator, NEHTN is represented on various social media sites, with the following statistics:

-Facebook: NEHTN’s posts have received 326 “Likes”, with a following of 357 people. Facebook’s Handle is: NEHTN, Northeast Horticultural Therapy Network.

-Instagram: NEHTN has 113 Followers, and is following 184 Instagram accounts. The Instagram handle is: Northeast HT Network.

-Twitter: NEHTN has 42 followers, and is following 30 accounts. The Twitter Handle is NEHORTTHERAPY.

-Popular Hashtags include: #NEHTN; #HTworkshops; #HTnetworks; #thehtrlife; #horticulturaltherapistarethebalm

### 4. Miscellaneous

-Erin reports that attendance has been up at the NEHTN workshops this year, with premier locations such as Perkin’s School for the Blind (sold out), Bartlett Arboretum, and Tower Hill Botanic Garden.

-NEHTN members have been actively promoting horticultural therapy in activities such as: hosting and presenting at the Horticultural Therapy Institute’s Introduction to HT class at the Coastal Maine Botanic Garden; speaking at various venues in New England; and being voted to the AHTA Board of Directors. Erin acknowledges the great work that is being done by members, and encourages members to send updates to NEHTN.

## B. Treasurer’s Report (Lynn Zeltman)

1. There is \$2,465.78 in the NEHTN account.
2. Lynn is waiting for Deborah Krause to cash a check reimbursing her for expenses from the Perkin’s School for the Blind workshop. Lisa will follow up with Deborah regarding the outstanding check.
3. There is one current grant application which the board will review for approval. Discussion followed regarding the criteria for grant applications to NEHTN.

### **New Business:**

- A. Sally asked the participants for their opinion regarding the ethics of a nursing home requesting her to perform a one-time horticultural therapy “session” as part of promotion event. Discussion followed.
  
- B. Participants discussed a recent AHTA proposal regarding new ways that professionals can become registered as horticultural therapists. Lisa will follow up with Erin to clarify what the proposal entails, and will post the AHTA link regarding the proposal on the NEHTN website.
  
- C. Future workshop sites were discussed, including Mary MacDonald’s Rest Stop Ranch, Tower Hill Botanic Garden (spring/summer) and Perkin’s School for the Blind (focus on adaptive equipment).
  
- D. Following discussion, it was suggested that once new prices are established for the HT Activity Guide, a shipping and handling cost can be added to pay the price for mailing. Hopefully, customers will be encouraged to download the Activity Guide as a PDF, to avoid a shipping and handling fee.
  
- E. There is a possibility of a future speaking opportunity for a veteran HT at Grassroots Garden in Buffalo, NY. There is also a possible consulting opportunity at Fresh River Healthcare in East Windsor, CT. Erin will keep the membership posted of these possible opportunities.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Perry, Secretary  
11/24/2019