

Northeast Horticultural Therapy Network
Business Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2017
Silver Hill Hospital, New Canaan, Connecticut

MINUTES

In Attendance:

BOD/Officers: Valerie Barrett, Judy Murray, Kathy Perry

Attendees: Danielle Attias, Eric Backus, Alan Eddy, Gwenn Fried, Linda Fuchs, Shannon Heffernan, Deborah Krause, Ciri Malamud, Lana Marche, Kitty Reed, Lynn Zeltman

Meeting called to order at 12:00 noon

Old Business: Minutes of December 12, 2016 approved.

Reports

President

Defer to Vice-President

Vice-President

- Valerie has been working on the new NEHTN website for the last 3 months. She is awaiting the EIN. Otherwise, it is ready to launch. Valerie will send an email out to NEHTN members once the website is up on the internet. The website includes a new video highlighting the AHTA national conference in Burlington, Vermont to be held September 7, 8 and 9th of 2017. The website also includes sections on: What Horticultural Therapy Is, Education, Membership, Contact Information, and Events. The website will accept online payments via PayPal. NEHTN will have an online store for items such as mugs and t-shirts. We may have a sample of these items at our table at the National Conference.
- Valerie updated us on the 2017 national AHTA conference plans. The conference theme is "Community Connections Through Horticultural Therapy". The Keynote Speaker is Will Raap, Chairman and Founder of Gardener's Supply. Charlie Nardozi and Donna Covais, HTR, will be co-presenting the Plenary speech. The Call for Presentations was sent out on February 15. The deadline for proposal submission is March 31st. The tour sites include: Intervale Community Gardens, Grandway Adult Day Center, the University of Vermont Rooftop Garden, the UVM Campus Gardens and Gardener's Supply with lunch at their café. The Lake Champlain cruise on Thursday evening is an option at this time. A question was raised regarding whether the AHTA 25% discount at Gardener's Supply will apply when we are there in person (versus online).
- Lorraine is collecting sponsorships for the conference and asked NEHTN members to submit names of potential businesses/organizations that may be willing to give financial support and/or a gift. NEHTN suggested that AHTA add an "Other" category to the donation levels. If NEHTN can reach the gold level of \$1,000, we can display items (e.g., t-shirt, coffee mug, HT Activity Guide) that people will be able to pre-order. No exchange of money at the conference is allowed by AHTA.

- Avery Harris, of Gardener's Supply Public Relations, is Chair of the Silent Auction.
- Gwenn Fried explained that AHTA is under new management, and is now based in Seattle, WA. Matha Heinze is no longer connected to AHTA.

Treasurer

Judy Murray presented the Treasurer's Report. NEHTN currently has \$1,952.33 in its checking account. Income primarily comes from memberships and the quarterly workshops. The expenses have included: 1) the cost of transferring our web info to a new host, after our previous website master resigned; 2) NEHTN awards up to two scholarships per year (last year only one scholarship was awarded); 3) NEHTN provides grant funding to its members for small HT projects – the application is on the website.

Membership

Deirdra Wallin submitted the membership report. NEHTN currently has 65 total members, with 8 institutional members and 57 individual members.

Social Media

Deirdra reported that our Facebook page currently has 183 Likes (this has tripled in the past year). Members are encouraged to "like" and "share" our NEHTN Facebook page.

Erin Backus reported that our Instagram account is #NEHTN. Linda Fuchs stated that she was able to post a photo on our Facebook page. It was suggested that NEHTN have a closed group via Facebook as a method of communication. Yahoo groups are also a potential for communication. Password protection exists on certain parts of our website.

Fundraising

Gwenn presented the Activity Guide for Horticultural Therapists as a NEHTN fundraiser. NEHTN members will be emailed a request to submit an HT project and are also encouraged to ask others who may have good project ideas. Templates will be provided, although it is ok to send the activity in a different written format. Credit will be given to the source (or may be kept anonymous, if preferred). The deadline for the first submission is April 30th. Multiple submissions are encouraged. Gwenn is considering offering the Activity Guide electronically as well as in printed form. Pictures/photos may be submitted with the template. The book will most likely be organized by season, with an alphabetical index in the back. Discussion followed about potentially adding advertising/resource guide to the Activity Guide.

Display Board

Deborah Krause presented an update on the NEHTN display board; she is heading its upgrade, and is seeking volunteers to assist her. \$200 is available from the NEHTN treasury for the display board. Deborah requested that members send in items such as: photos (no larger than 8x10) of members' facilities/HT programs in action; articles, small HT objects. She would like different states and populations to be represented. She would like to collect the items now and assemble the new board over the summer.

New Business

- Spring Workshop is scheduled at the Monarch School of New England, NH, on June 10th.
- Alan Eddy is looking for 20 volunteers to help write a manual on plant morphology/botany to enhance HT practice. Current sections include Botanical Illustration, Video for Instruction, and Growing Indoor Plants in an Elder Care Facility. For example, for an activity such as propagating scented geranium, the manual would discuss the botanical structures and processes that allow the propagation to occur.
- Deborah Krause reported that HTI may be teaching the Intro to HT course at Perkins again, possibly in November of 2017. NEHTN may offer a scholarship for a student to attend.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Perry
Secretary, NEHTN