

Date: Dec 5, 2023, 5pm-6pm

Attendees: Emily, Ali, Mandy, Lauren, Nicole, Keri, Harmony, Meg

Absent:

Secretary: Mandy

Board Meeting Agenda

(scroll down for final **Action Items**)

- I. 3 minute updates per person – timed (led by Emily)
 - A. Some notes more applicable to all of us:
 1. Many organizations grappling with profound funding losses after historic flooding (“bake-sale level funding”) as we look to filling the holes in the new Fiscal Year.
 2. Funding losses span both general programming, as well as equity funds (e.g., childcare, scholarship). Some implementing new sliding scales!
 3. Orienting to new programs post-COVID (or in our new times of living with COVID) – some for the first time since pre-2020
 4. Four Winds seeking new candidates soon for Executive Director – advertising materials coming soon, keep your eyes/ears peeled for folks who may be a strong fit!
 5. [NHEE Conference - March 19, 2023](#)
- II. [Patrick Leahy Lake Champlain Basin Program Seeks Proposals for Education and Organizational Capacity Initiatives](#)
 - A. **Organizational Support (up to \$20,000): Due Jan 4, 2023**
 - B. Ali and Emily are meeting on **Wed 12/13 from 3-4:30** if others would like to join our [working meeting](#) to co-write grant proposal
 - C. Will borrow and wordsmith grant language from prior grants – not entirely reinventing the wheel
 - D. The doc will be sent to everyone so even if you can’t work on it then you can work and look at it before and after (ideally by/before Jan 1!)
 - E. **Goal:** Application largely complete *before* New Year
- III. Spring Membership gathering (**Harmony** to lead coordination of committee)
 - A. Who can take the lead?
 - B. Action Item: ending email to Board Members interested in a membership gathering leadership role to spark next steps of coordination, date/location selection, etc. (Harmony)
 1. Contacts include Nicole
 - C. Spring is when we nominate new individuals to the Board → Now is the time to begin talking with prospective Board members you may know!
 - D. Any by-law changes/voting also occur in spring
 - E. Consider:
 1. **Location:** Anywhere except that budget is extremely limited, should we need to rent a venue. Previous locations: Audubon Vermont, North Branch Nature Center, Birds of Vermont, etc.

2. **Keynote activity or speaker** (20-30 minutes): Can be indoor or outdoor and highly relevant to the unique site and how this relates specifically to the final **date** (e.g., tour of sugar-bush or sugar-house in March)

- IV. Webinars **(Mandy to lead coordination of a new committee)**
- A. Allow for ample marketing time and include interactive online workshop/webinar experience (not just talking “at” people through a Zoom screen)
 - B. Engage more speakers and workshops at the nexus of environmental education and justice (e.g. Clemmons Farm, Juniper Creative Arts) and responsive pedagogy/practice
 - C. “Soft Skills” professional development webinar for very young professionals and teens – Important for youth emerging on job market after an adolescence spent largely to entirely in pandemic
 1. Management skills, life skills / transferable skills, and more
 2. Lauren traister: trains heavily in developmental relationships with teens
 3. [Look into Serve. Learn. Earn. and Vermont Works for Women. etc.!](#)
 4. 2 different “sibling” series possible: 1 for young professionals and teens, and 1 for veteran educators and employers
 - D. <https://outdoorlearningstore.com/workshops/>

V. Membership Drive Email

- A. Emily will send it out in Dec

VI. January Board meeting

- A. Tuesday evenings looking likely as our spring 2024 meeting time

VII. Northeast Affiliate meeting 10/27/24 (Meg)

- A. Update: NA very enthusiastic about VEEN having our own strand at conference!
More details to come

VIII. **Action Items:**

- A. Join our [working meeting](#) to co-write grant proposal **Wed 12/13 from 3-4:30** if others would like to join
- B. Make other edits to grant proposal by **01/01** (even if you can't make working meeting!)
- C. **Harmony** beginning email coordination for spring gathering meeting committee
- D. **Mandy** beginning email coordination for webinar series