

Date: Rescheduled January 16, 2024, 6pm-7pm due to inclement weather

Attendees: Ali, Meg, Harmony, Nicole

Secretary: Mandy

Board Meeting Agenda

- **Action Item:** Reshare Google Drive! (Ali)
 - Mandy's personal Gmail (UVM email is Outlook): mandylizanix@gmail.com
- 3 minute updates per person – timed
- Updated website and been keeping up with instagram
 - Updated job posting and events
 - Need to update board member list
 - Been posting on our instagram stories and engaging
 - Created a membership post to help people to renew
- We did not apply for the LCBP grant
 - Limitations included time, extensive grant management/administration, and not a clear and easy connection to VEEN and our shared work
 - Alternatives
 - Reorienting towards smaller grants that build capacity without, rather ironically, depleting capacity (grant management/administration)
 - Rather than formal grant application, try direct donor letters interested in statewide capacity-building initiatives. AI to keep us posted.
 - Other grants we could apply for?
 - [Spark](#)
 - [VCF Non-profit capacity building](#)
 - What is our capacity for writing grants?
 - What size grants should we be looking for?
- Update on New England Affiliation Network [Ali]
 - Friday, April 26th in southern NH with option to stay the night
 - Can reimburse any associated costs (travel, hotel, etc.)
 - Three people from each affiliate - **Email Ali if you are interested in joining!**
 - Programming will be limited to ONE day
 - Terrific opp to experience “real traction” and collaborate closely with affiliates – and writing grants for capacity for larger affiliate network could be a key deliverable
 - Exciting update: VEEN receiving a check for \$500 as an affiliate! Can be used as we see fit.

Circling back to December meeting topics:

- Membership Drive Email

- Emily sent it out in Jan.
- **Membership Action Items:**
 - Membership Renewal on VEEN website malfunctioning
 - Full VEEN membership list with names/emails/phone numbers visible on website and is a privacy issue
 - Emily edited this on 1/17 to be private except to board members. This has always been posted so that our network is connected and can reach out to each other and other organizations.
 - Mailchimp -
 - Potential alternative for newsletters that can be mass sent without daily email caps of personal emails
 - Mandy previously coordinated education e-newsletters at Stroud Center and would be comfortable spearheading this, if group is interested (and more than one of us could be an editor)
 - Unlike mass emails, this would be a listserv that legally requires folx to “subscribe” or opt in (e.g., ~2 more newsletters saying we are transitioning to a new newsletter platform and to SUBSCRIBE HERE to continue receiving our monthly/quarterly updates and emails)
 - Ali and Emily to discuss and circle back as/if needed
 - Please be sure your membership is up to date please!
- Spring Membership gathering (Harmony to lead coordination of committee)
 - In previous years, there was a full-day meeting in fall and evening meeting in spring.
 - Friday, May 17 in 2023!!!!
 - Who can take the lead? Harmont, Nicole, Meg, Keri
 - **Action Item:**
 - Harmony to recirculate email reminder for new committee to spark next steps of coordination, date/location selection, etc. (Harmony)
 - Once structure is figured out, mail all Board Members with When2Meet or similar poll for the “when”!
 - Spring is when we nominate new individuals to the Board → Now is the time to begin talking with prospective Board members you may know!
 - Any by-law changes/voting also occur in spring
 - Consider:

- **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.
 - **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)
- Webinars (Mandy to lead coordination of a new committee)
 - Mandy has not yet sent mass email
 - Dialogue on how meaningful and exceptional a webinar or online workshop would be - folks seeking opportunities to richly collaborate and network
 - Classroom teachers, university scientists, etc. in conversation and collaboration
 - Increasing presence at conferences
 - NAAEE proposals due Jan 26: <https://naaee.org/>
 - Webinar/Workshop Ideas
 - Harmony - Getting over the “hump” of EE
 - Refresher from Dec 5:
 - Allow for ample marketing time and include interactive online workshop/webinar experience (not just talking “at” people through a Zoom screen)
 - Engage more speakers and workshops at the nexus of environmental education and justice (e.g. Clemmons Farm, Juniper Creative Arts) and responsive pedagogy/practice
 - “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
 - Management skills, life skills / transferable skills, and more
 - Lauren traister: trains heavily in developmental relationships with teens
 - [Look into Serve. Learn. Earn. and Vermont Works for Women, etc.!](#)
 - 2 different “sibling” series possible: 1 for young professionals and teens, and 1 for veteran educators and employers
 - <https://outdoorlearningstore.com/workshops/>
 - **Action Items:**

- Mandy to send email ***this week*** to gauge interest for committee and initiate next steps for March webinar or workshop (“Reply all if you want to be on a panel!”)
- Likely to be a panel with a twist and flash talks on resources for K-12 environmental education etc.