

NESEA Board Conference Call - Notes

January 8, 2015

Participating

Les Bluestone
Michael Bruss
Caitriona Cooke
Martine Dion
Paul Eldrenkamp
Phil Kaplan
Jennifer Marrapese
Rob Meyers
Fortunat Mueller
Andy Padian
Rick Renner
John Skipper
Lisa Tallet

Call convened at 9:03 AM.

Jennifer:

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Caitriona: Welcomed the new Board members. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as Chair.

Rick: Formally announced the results of the Board Chair election; Michael Bruss received the majority of the votes, so he is the new Board Chair. Thanked both Andy and Michael for running, and thanked NESEA staff for helping with the mechanics of the online election.

Michael: Thanked Andy for running and for all his contributions to NESEA. Thanked Caitriona for her work as Board Chair.

Caitriona: Introduced the new Board members – Les Bluestone, Fortunat Mueller, and Lisa Tallet.

Les: He is a developer and general contractor active in the New York metropolitan region, focusing on affordable housing. He has been developing energy efficient buildings since he first met Andy in 1999.

Fortunat: From Portland. He has been a principal with Revision Energy, as solar developer and installer, for ten years. Sister companies include Revision Heat, an installer of biomass heating systems, and another venture that imports biomass heating equipment from Denmark.

Lisa: Works in Syracuse, NY for National Grid. She has worked in the energy efficiency field for twenty years. (Sorry Lisa, I could not write fast enough to record the rest!)

Michael: Proposed the following for the balance of the Executive Committee – Secretary, Rick Renner; Treasurer, Paul Eldrenkamp; Vice-Chair, Martine Dion.

Vote: Andy moved and Caitriona seconded approval of the slate proposed by Michael. The motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer: BE registrations total 25 so far, yielding an income of \$10,000. This is \$7,000 more than last year at this time. Invitations were just mailed. Registrations for the Net Zero Energy Leadership Summit total \$4,000 so far. 88 BE15 Exhibitors have registered (versus 87 at this time last year), yielding an income of \$163,000 toward the goal of \$225,000. Many exhibitors are registering for larger booths. Sponsorships total \$109,000 to-date, with a goal of \$120,000. Phil Kaplan is the latest sponsor to sign up.

Jennifer: Encouraged the Board to take advantage of the \$199/night NESEA rate at the Seaport Hotel as soon as possible, because fewer rooms have been set aside this year. Early, discounted registration for the conference ends on January 31. NESEA night will be held in a restaurant adjacent to the conference venue; 250 tickets are available for that event, so, again, early registration is encouraged.

Martine: The food at that restaurant is very good.

Jennifer: 45,000 invitations have been sent out. Ten copies of the invitation will be sent to each Board member, unless a Board member requests more. Jennifer will also send to the Board the web address of the online invitation. The BE15 Conference App has just launched, and it is both visually appealing and useful.

Jennifer: Annual Appeal contributions total \$18,000, which is a little higher than last year. \$3,000 in pledges remains to be collected, and Jennifer requested that this be completed by January 31.

Jennifer: Jennifer and the staff are working to confirm the date and venue for BENYC. Venue possibilities include the Time-Life Center (last year's venue), PKP, and American Management. Mary Biddle is working on dates and pricing for the latter venues; if they are not favorable, Time-Life will be the venue. Possible dates are October 2, 7, and 22. The NESEA annual meeting will be scheduled for the same time.

Jennifer: Typically, the first Board meeting of the year is held in Greenfield, but Rob Meyers had suggested that we find a location that might be more central.

Rob: As a function of Board member geographic locations and public transportation possibilities, Worcester, Massachusetts is a promising location. The Worcester Public Library has free meeting space available. Rob noted that train service from New York City is probably so circuitous as to be unrealistic.

Andy: If possible, the location should favor the use of public transportation.

Lisa: National Grid has a Sustainability Hub in Worcester with meeting facilities. She will check to see if the space is available.

General Discussion: After a review of the possibilities, it became clear that everyone would probably drive. That said, meeting in Worcester probably means less overall driving.

Jennifer: NESEA staff will not be in Greenfield on the day of the meeting, so it is good time to try an alternate location.

Caitriona: If space is not available in Worcester, her firm could host everyone at their office in Westborough.

Michael: No vote is required, and with the consensus in favor of meeting in Worcester, the decision is to give it a try.

Jennifer: Is 10:00 AM a good time to start, or should we begin the meeting later? Note that we need six hours.

General Discussion: The meeting should start at 10:00 AM

Jennifer: The Board Retreat is scheduled for May 15 and 16. It is traditional for a member of the Board to take the lead on selecting a location.

Andy: Volunteered to look for a location. He noted that the Retreat will not be at Garrison Institute. Andy will keep us posted on his progress.

Michael: Appreciates the vote of confidence. Thank you to Caitriona for her leadership

Caitriona: Congratulations to Michael Bruss and thank you to Jennifer for making the Board's job easy.

Vote: Motion to adjourn seconded and approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Phone call adjourned at 9:46 AM.

Notes prepared by Rick Renner