

NESEA BOD Meeting – Monthly Meeting

11/05/2020

Zoom Conference Board Meeting

Participating

Miriam Aylward

Lauren Brust Moss

Betsy Glynn

Andrew Webster

Kate Stephenson

Ben Southworth

Fortunat Mueller

Phil Kaplan

Rachel White

Matt Root

Nancy Ludwig

Loic Chappoz

Jodi Smits Anderson

Not Participating

Saheel Chandrani

9:07am Meeting brought to order.

Vote:

1. Motion to approve minutes for October: Made by Kate. Seconded by Andrew
Vote to approve unanimous for all board members in attendance at that meeting.

New Items:

1. Letters of Support
NESEA is regularly asked to provide letters of support. This is a letter of support for MA to create a clean energy equity workforce office and fund workforce development program. This aligns with NESEA's vision and mission. Miriam would like to send letters of support for organizations and groups that also further the mission.
 - a. Miriam should let the Board know which letters of support that NESEA is signing via email.
 - b. Maximum of three a month
 - c. Could we include this in updates to members? Post a list on the website? Further discussion needed.
 - d. Minimum of 5% of staff salary should be paid by private sources to allow for this support
 - e. We cannot support candidates
 - f. We can't spend more than \$175,000 on specific lobbying
 - g. May also be supportive of our diversity and inclusion goals
2. Annual Meeting – 11/10 from 4-5pm
 - a. On your Zoom name, add that you are a Board Member
 - b. Annual Report and Annual Appeal – focus on NESEA turning 45
3. Board Elections
 - a. Candidates – bios and videos on NESEA.org. Great outreach and access to info on the site
 - b. Voting is going well and many reminders to come. Really good traction...75 people so far voted
 - c. Can we build upon this model to highlight leaders of BEBL, Pro Tours, etc?
 - d. Look at all possible board members for Committee membership, whether they become Board members or not

4. December 3rd Meeting
 - a. Finalize election results and make appointments
 - b. 2 hour long meeting to include appointment review
 - c. Need executive team
 - d. Suggest maybe the Chair serving as the VC for a year to assist transition
5. Fiscal Sponsorships
 - a. Concept paper to the DOE with partners for grant over 3 years (not fiscal sponsorship, but related to diversifying our revenue)
 - b. What can we offer that is a fee for service? Administrative oversight = fiscal sponsorship?
 - c. Working with foundations, etc. that are looking to work with NESEA to be the pass through and possibly admin, with % fee. These groups would be totally aligned with our mission, representing also the collaborative power of a network such as this. We provide service to create greater traction.
 - d. Fiscal sponsorship does not need a vote, general support to move forward, keep Executive Committee in the loop.
 - e. Fiscal sponsorship on the table with the Cooler Communities project.

Programs Update:

1. BE NYC
 - a. September 29/30, 2021
 - b. Timeline is set. Chairs are Gwen McLoughlin and Adam Watson
 - c. Open planning meeting in early February
 - d. Some companies in free fall, NYC lower in revenue which will help plan for future
2. BE Boston
 - a. May 3/4/5, 2021
 - b. Contract signed with Westin – we can get out of this anytime before the end of this calendar year with no penalty
 - c. RFP opens on 11/5
 - d. theme is “Getting to Why”
 - e. Boston 20 was strong thanks in part to vendors
 - i. Lots of staff time, but this MAY be the learning curve
 - Q – extra staff time, does this mean something else suffered a bit?
 - A – not really, we pivoted well. Pro tours got a little less attention, but ran well. etc.
3. Magazine – Celebrating NESEA at 45; drops on 12/15/20 and has a donation envelope inside
4. BEBL – continuing to meet; all BLs meeting in January
5. Pro Tours – 2 upcoming tours

Development Committee Update:

1. Barr Foundation – did not fund NORESCO’s DEI application
2. Our proposal was not selected. Maybe not fitting in exactly into their climate program, that’s okay as our intent was to align/straddle. Looking for more opportunities.

3. Planning for next round in the next meeting
4. Many of board members on the current slate could be good part of the Development Committee

Financial Update:

1. Q1 overview, we are in good shape. Not relaxing, but in a good place with uncertainty ahead.
2. Reminder: budgeted for 2 years, together, FY 20 and FY 21 break even.
3. In general we are over for Boston, under for NYC and balanced elsewhere, overall higher than budgeted revenue.
4. Balance Sheet Highlights
 - a. Current assets 74% higher than last year at this time.
 - b. Total assets are down only 9% compared to last year, even without the building.
 - c. No long-term debt
5. Payroll emergency fund gift, past load to self is paid back and will serve as flex for payroll issues.
6. We'd like to clarify the use of the endowment fund...and build it up.

Motion to adjourn: Rachel; seconded Phil.

Meeting closed 10:01 AM

Minutes submitted by Lauren Bruss and Jodi Smits Anderson