

Society of Soil Scientists of Northern New England
Minutes of the Annual Meeting
Convened at the Maine Audubon Gilsland Farm Facility, Falmouth, Maine
February 15, 2013

The Business Meeting was called to order by President Michael Cuomo at 3:05 PM. Mike introduced the two page draft of the Code of Ethics (COE) that the membership had received to review prior to the meeting. There was not a specific incident that generated the COE; it is simply a document to encourage ethical behavior by the membership. After a few editing comments such as, SSSNNE should be Society of Soil Scientists of Northern New England, the numbering of the sections had a typo, etc., discussion of pros and cons continued.

Dave Marceau asked if this COE conflicts with other code of ethics such as MAPSS, etc. Greg Howard commented that SSSNNE should not develop into a "judge and jury" on specific incidents/complaints. Questions on what the structure would be for reviewing complaints ensued. It was recommended that any complaints should be directed to the various state boards in place for such purposes. Ray Lobdell commented that a COE might help a SSSNNE board in responding to a complaint or incident. Jamie Long made a motion that SSSNNE does not need a COE. After some discussion Mike Cuomo clarified the motion to be, "Does the membership want a COE?" 13 were in favor and 9 were opposed. SSSNNE will adopt a COE. Additional discussion on the COE continued. Tom Carr wanted to modify Section 4(a)(ii) now Section 5. The membership decided to delete all of Section 4(a)(ii). Cindy Balcius moved to strike the whole section. Final member consensus for Section 4(a)(i) now 5(a)(i) was that the SSSNNE Board of Directors "shall determine the appropriate course of action". Jim Gove motioned to change the title of Section 4 now Section 5 to "Duty To The Society". Seconded and passed.

Sherrie Trefry motioned to accept the COE with edits and amendments added. Motion was seconded by Jim Gove and passed unanimously.

Summer Workshop Discussion

Karen Dudley reported that Don Parizek (CT-NRCS) wanted to have collaboration with SSSSNE and SSSNNE with the subject being a "back to basics" soil seminar. Don suggested a more centrally located site such as Durham on marine sediments as a possibility.

Chris Dorion gave a summary of a Soil and Natural Resource Workshop to be held September 4, 2013 at Mount Blue State Park in Weld, Maine. This will be sponsored by MAPSS, MAWS, MASE, and SSSNNE. It will be structured similar to the past Reid State Park and Rangeley workshops. State and federal regulators will be present along with NRCS soil scientists and private consultants. Dave Rocque has located a number of challenging soils and wetland related sites where monitoring data would be available.

Audra Klumb suggested a possible "Drumlin 2" workshop day at Tom Carr's property. Tom has limits to the number of attendance and the very successful barbeque most likely would not happen.

Cindy Balcius suggested a workshop focusing on impacts to soils that occurred in the last 200 years. For example, current wooded sites that were open pastureland in the past.

Website

Lindsay Byboth reported on our website. It has been maintained over the years by Brian Tremback. Taking Brian's excellent work over the years, suggestions for improvement, etc., Lindsay will be taking over as SSSNNE webmaster. One change will be to incorporate a SSSNNE.wordpress.com. This will allow the website to be updated more easily and provide better access to the membership. Costs are \$18.00 per year for this feature. It was decided that no motion was needed for an expenditure this small. Mike Cuomo thanked Brian for all his years of service and Lindsay for taking over the website duties.

New Hampshire Certified Soil Scientist Exam

Jim Gove organized a committee to review the soil certification exam. The primary purpose was to evaluate whether the exam was a fair test to measure the person's knowledge to work in the soil science field in New Hampshire. Ray Lobdell, Cindy Balcius, Randy Shuey, Mark Stolt, and others were involved in the review. The committee gave suggestions to Tom Paragallo. The suggestions were geared more to provide an exam that dealt with what soil scientists in NH perform for work. The modified exam is ready to use. There is also a training system that is in draft form now. Tom Peragallo has training modules and sites available.

Treasurer's Report

Lindsay Byboth presented the Treasurer's Report with total assets for the end of 2012 of \$8,254.34. Greg Howard motioned to accept the report as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

Envirothon Donations

Vermont has requested assistance for their program. In the past a \$300.00 donation has been given to VT, NH & ME if requests come in. Eric Fontaine motioned to give \$300.00 to Vermont Envirothon. The motion passed. Greg Howard motioned to make \$300.00 available per state for this year to be used for soil science related education (i.e., envirothon, soil judging, etc.). The motion passed unanimously.

Election of SSSNNE BOD

Mike Cuomo asked for any BOD nominations from the floor. The existing Board of Directors consisting of Sherrie Trefry, Lindsay Byboth, Marc Jacobs, Mike Cuomo and Greg Howard will remain on for 2013. A motion to approve unanimously passed.

Close

Mike Cuomo thanked Sherrie Trefry for organizing a great educational workshop. Greg Howard motioned to adjourn the business meeting. Motion was seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Joseph Noel, Acting Secretary For Meeting
Marc Jacobs, Secretary