

Maine Division, Society of American Foresters

Business Meeting, June 9, 2005.

Augusta Civic Center

Bob Wagner convened the meeting at 8 am and briefly reviewed the MESAF highlights since the fall meeting. Bob congratulated all who were involved in organizing the winter NESAF meeting in Portland; the meeting was a very successful in all aspects. The MESAF Executive Committee has decided to sponsor Rory Eckardt and Molly Simonson to attend the SAF Leadership Academy this June. After many years of valuable efforts, the Forestry Awareness Committee has decided not to sponsor a Poster Contest for 6<sup>th</sup> graders in the coming year. In its place, the committee is developing a strategy that will coordinate our efforts with other groups to reach the K-12 teachers and students.

Bill Livingston presented the Treasurer's Report and highlighted areas that showed some differences from the budget that was approved at the fall meeting. Income from the MESAF Fall Meeting exceeded the budgeted amount by \$2,365 and expenses were \$1,557 less resulting in a net gain of \$3,922 to the budget. The NESAF meeting net earnings exceeded expectations and will add \$2,669 beyond what was budgeted. The Spring meeting expenses are expected to break about even which was expected in the budget. There have been a few expenses that have exceeded the budgeted amount including the SAF Academy Sponsorships (about \$500 over budget due to increased meeting expenses), web page (\$145 over budget due to payment for the domain name), and miscellaneous expenses (\$98 for member survey, \$96 for awards, \$81 for office expenses). The ending balance for the coming fiscal year is expected to be about \$5,800 higher than what was budgeted. There were no questions on the Treasurer's report and it was approved.

Judy Round gave a presentation on efforts to construct a 100th Anniversary Memorial in the courtyard of Nutting Hall in honor of UMaine's forestry program. The project will completely change the courtyard and will prominently display a sculpture by Forest Hart, his "Cub Scouts" work. Pictures showed the current state of the courtyard and then how it would look with the proposed changes. The cost for the sculpture, excavation needed to ensure adequate drainage, laying of granite walls and a sunken walkway is about \$140,000. At this point \$120,000 has been raised for the memorial. Judy said that the college's 100th Anniversary Committee recommended that MESAF be asked for a contribution. She noted that any contributor that gave at least \$5,000 would have a plaque placed along the memorial's walkway. The MESAF Executive Committee approved a motion at its February meeting to have MESAF members vote at the Spring Meeting on contributing \$5,000 to the Memorial such that a plaque in MESAF's name will be displayed in the courtyard. A ballot question was given to the membership stating: Should the Maine Division, New England State Society of American Foresters commit to a two-year \$5,000 pledge dedicated to the University of Maine, Nutting Hall Courtyard renovation project? A primary concern stated during the discussion of the

ballot question was the maintenance of the courtyard; past experience has shown that the University does not maintain its facilities as it should. In response, Livingston noted that the courtyard renovations were designed to be durable and would require minimum upkeep, and that volunteer efforts by students, faculty, staff, and alumni have been used in the past to maintain facilities. There was another comment on how lucky we were in Maine to be discussing a courtyard renovation to an existing building while students in another state had to take classes in portable units.

Ballots were collected, and the motion to support a donation to the UMaine Forestry Memorial was approved by 37-0.

Bob Wagner adjourned the business meeting at 8:30.

Respectively submitted,

Bill Livingston  
Secretary (part time!)/Treasurer