

# NYFOA- Capitol District Chapter |MINUTES

4/13/21 / 6:00PM – 7:30PM | ZOOM CALL

Meeting called by	Jeff Kehoe	Attendees: Jeff Kehoe, Jason Post, Phil Walton, Dick & Shari Gibbs, Tracy Lamanec, Carl Weidman, Carol & Gerry McDonald, Ron Bernhard, Bob Sheedy, Craig Vollmer
Type of meeting	Steering Committee Meeting- Introduction of Craig Vollmer NYFOA Executive Director	
Facilitator	Jeff Kehoe	
Note taker	Carol McDonald	
Timekeeper	Jeff Kehoe	

## | AGENDA TOPIC

### ● Introduction of Craig Vollmer

Craig provided an overview of his experience and background along with his plans as he settles into his new role. He plans to attend events and meetings as much as possible. His objectives include looking at an affiliation with the Tree Farm Program in NY identifying opportunities for shared services and to establish greater efficiencies while growing membership. He emphasized his desire to support the local chapters and as a conduit to other state and national groups. He wants to develop strong workshops and programs with speakers that would be mobile and speak to members and leaders of NYFOA across the state. Membership growth and the analysis of current members are also a significant focus. Craig would like to identify ways to increase the membership and to improve engagement of current members. He is the face of the organization and will conduct advocacy work on behalf of NYFOA.

Jeff shared comments regarding the state role vs. the local role. Craig acknowledged improvements could be made.

Craig suggested that leadership training would be a benefit to Chapter leaders and should possibly be launched to help with the management of administrative skills, support event planning and meeting organization, enhance new member engagement, and overall help to make the job of Chapter leaders easier. NYFOA is looking to improve relationships with members.

Craig would like to track member attendance with the use of attendance forms. He pointed out the NYFOA Chapter Page and the resources available such as an attendance form. He requested that we look at the form and begin using it and send him a copy after each meeting.

The topic of requiring port a potty for events was raised and Craig indicated he was not aware of this requirement. It was possible it was discussed but not enacted. It was acknowledged that it might be appreciated by attendees but is not a requirement for walks. Tracy clarified that he raised it after he attended a zoom talk with Pennsylvania State Forest Owners Association.

Dick raised Forestry Awareness Day experiences from past years being a positive way to engage the public and attract interest in NYFOA.

Craig indicated NYFOA will have a presence with 30 legislators who will participate in a ZOOM meeting for 3 days in April 2021.

Tracy suggested High School adult education events, Trout Unlimited, and the Forest Stewardship Program as being important considerations as Craig looks to recruit new membership in NYFOA. Craig took note of these suggestions.

The Audubon Society is promoting woods walks and bird habitat management and has grant funding. The Young Forest Owners initiative is making some headway. To further the mission and role of NYFOA they are looking to identify walks in each region to pick a date, handle the registration and host lunch and activities. The Southern Adirondack Region will hold a walk early June, Southern Tier Delaware County is slated for August. Alleghany and Northern Adirondack Region is pending. Craig signed off to attend another meeting. His full bio will be in the next issue of the Forest Owners Magazine.

## Chapter Business

Jason provided the state meeting update.

Jeff addressed the newsletter being tricky with formatting. Jeff request information on the timber report and pictures for the new committee members. Jeff will complete the formatting.

Jeff asked about events, our readiness, and plans. Jason to contact Peter Smallidge to lead a walk at the request of a landowner. Jason to call Peter for a date.

Dick felt the newsletter should carry at least one scheduled event.

Carol offered information about a woodlot featured in the Times Union and scheduled a preliminary walk with potential for a chapter walk at the location.

Tracy suggested his property for a fungus foray with Gerry McDonald assisting.

Dick suggested we include young adults and children as we announce walks. This would be a positive way to engage them and make the forests a part of their early lives.

Discussion was held about pop up walks, how to sign up ahead of time to ensure the number of attendees does not exceed current limitations due to the pandemic.

Tracy to get back to Jeff on a walk date.

The Altamont and Schaghticoke Fair was raised as the Chapter has in the past had representatives present. There was not a strong feeling shared regarding the engagement of people or increased membership because of our participation at these events. It was felt that smaller venues were more productive and that sportsman events/shows may attract more member interest.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Woods Walks	Jason Post	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪Select and schedule walks with the proper noticing and potential for attendee limits or cancelations</li> <li>▪Coordinate with Gerry McDonald on the best time to view the cut performed on his property as well as the Mirror Lake walk, and properties identified with varying stages of harvest</li> </ul>		
Presentations	Jason Post	OPEN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪Obtain list of speakers for presentations/zoom</li> <li>▪Evaluate potential for Dick Gibbs and Shari to present the conservation experience they recently completed</li> <li>▪Speak to DEC regarding a DRONE presentation</li> </ul>		

**Action items****Person responsible Deadline**

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- Work with Jeff on engaging municipalities and land preservation/conservation groups to present options for landowners.

**Newsletter**

OPEN

- Obtain appropriate tools for the primary composer of the newsletter Tracy Lamanec
- Obtain articles from new committee members Carl Weidman
- Select primary account person for click to mail submission, proofing, and mailing Jeff Kehoe
- Determine the ongoing responsibility for preparing the newsletter and forum for content approval

Tracy to coordinate with Gerry and Jeff on  
Fungi Foray

Tracy/Gerry

Jeff to complete format of newsletter

Jeff

Jason to coordinate with Peter on leading a walk

Jason

The meeting was adjourned 7:30PM

Next Scheduled meeting TBD