

# **BYLAWS OF THE NEW YORK SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS**

Current version adopted November 30, 2017

## **ARTICLE 1 – NAME AND ORGANIZATION**

This organization is a unit of the Society of American Foresters (hereinafter referred to as The Society) and shall be known as the “New York Society of American Foresters” (hereinafter referred to as the NY Society).

The organization’s objectives are:

1. to advance sustainable management of forest resources through science, education, and technology; to enhance the competency of its members; to establish professional excellence; and to use our knowledge, skills, and conservation ethic to ensure the continued health, integrity, and use of forests to benefit society in perpetuity; and
2. to provide an opportunity for better liaison among the individual members, their regional representatives, and the Society.

## **ARTICLE 2 –PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES**

No part of the NY Society’s net earnings shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the NY Society shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article 1 hereof.

## **ARTICLE 3 – MEMBERSHIP**

Every member of the Society in good standing is entitled to membership in a state society. All NY Society members may vote on any questions before the NY Society.

Membership in the N.Y. Society may be terminated by (1) voluntary resignation (2) failure to pay dues (3) expulsion from the Society for unprofessional conduct, (4) transfer of domicile to another state society, or (5) death.

## **ARTICLE 4 – MEMBERSHIP DUES**

The Executive Committee shall propose membership dues. Changes in dues shall require a two-thirds vote of the NY SAF members voting.

## **ARTICLE 5 – OFFICERS**

The NY Society's officers must be members in good standing of The Society and of the NY Society. The Chair, Chair-Elect, Past Chair, Chapter Chairs and Members At Large shall serve two year terms; and the Secretary and Treasurer shall serve three year terms.

The Chair-Elect automatically becomes Chair at the end of the Chair's term. The Chair automatically becomes Past Chair at the end of the Chair's term. Unanticipated vacancies in any office shall be filled by majority vote of the Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE 6 – DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS**

The Chair is responsible for developing and continuing the NY Society's activities during the term of office and for organizing the membership toward meeting the NY Society's objectives. The Chair presides at NY Society meetings; serves as Executive Committee Chair and ex officio member of all other committees; oversees the NY Society's business affairs; appoints, with the approval of the Executive Committee, the standing committees as authorized; acts as the official delegate to the House of Society Delegates, or, with the approval of the Executive Committee, appoints an alternative; conducts correspondence; and performs all other duties commonly incident to such office. The Chair shall present a report of the NY Society's activities at an annual membership meeting.

If the Chair resigns or is unable to serve, the Chair-Elect shall succeed as Chair to serve the remainder of the term, as well as serving the next term as Chair. If both the Chair and Chair-Elect resign or are unable to serve, the Executive Committee, by affirmative majority vote, shall appoint a Chair Pro Tempore from present or past members of the Executive Committee to serve until a new Chair and Chair-Elect are elected at the next general election and take office, or until the Chair or Chair-Elect is able to resume those duties. If appointed from the present Executive Committee, the Chair shall resign his/her current position.

The Chair-Elect, in the absence of the Chair, presides at the NY Society meetings and acts for and assists the chair, in conducting NY Society affairs as requested by the Chair. The Chair-Elect is also the chair of the Program Committee.

## **ARTICLE 7 – ELECTIONS**

Election of officers and Chapter Chairs shall be by ballot in October. Election results will be reported to The Society not later than December 15.

Nominations made by the Nominating Committee shall be transmitted to the Chair with a copy to the Secretary by September 1. Nominations by any member and presented to the Secretary in writing by September 1, shall be included on the ballot.

The Secretary shall determine whether all nominees are members, eligible to hold NY Society office, and agreeable to serve if elected. The Secretary shall report to the Chair and Nominating Committee the name of any nominees who fails to qualify. Further nominations, if necessary shall be made by the Nominating Committee no later than September 15.

The Secretary shall provide a ballot to each member in early October. The ballots shall (1) state the offices to be filled, (2) list the names of the candidates for each office in alphabetical order, (3) show the closing date for receiving the ballots, and (4) be accompanied by a brief factual professional biography of each candidate.

The outcome of all elections shall be determined by a simple majority of those voting. In the case of a tie vote, a run-off election shall be held within one month. The ballots shall be counted by the Tellers and Auditing Committee who shall promptly certify the results of the election to the Chair, the Executive Committee, The Society's Chief Executive Officer and all candidates for office by December 15. The membership shall be informed of the election results at the annual meeting and in the "New York Forester."

All elected officials shall assume office at the conclusion of the next annual meeting.

## **ARTICLE 8 – COMMITTEES**

The NY Society's standing committees shall be: Executive, Program, Legislation and Forest Policy, Nominating and Professional Recognition, and Tellers and Auditing. With the approval of the Executive Committee, the NY Society chair shall appoint all standing committee members with the exception of the Executive Committee, and appoint members to other special committees authorized by the Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE 9 – APPOINTMENTS**

With the approval of the Executive Committee, the Chair shall make the following appointments:

- A. SPECIAL COMMITTEES.** The Chair and members of authorized committees shall be appointed to serve up to a two-year term.
- B. OTHER APPOINTMENTS.** Other appointments shall be authorized by the Executive Committee for up to a two-year term.

## **ARTICLE 10 – CHAPTERS**

Chapters may be authorized by the NY Society's Executive Committee upon written petition of 15 or more NY Society voting members residing in an area where a strong local organization of diversified interest may be effected. The Executive Committee shall establish a Chapter's

boundaries. The Executive Committee may rescind a Chapter's authorization. Chapters shall hold at least one meeting each year to retain their authorization.

Each Chapter's officers shall consist of a Chair, and Secretary-Treasurer. The Chapter Chair serves on the NY Society Executive Committee. Chapter members will vote on Chapter officers.

Chapters may adopt bylaws subject to the approval of the Executive Committee and The Society, provided that no part thereof shall conflict with The Society's Bylaws or these Bylaws. Chapters may establish Chapter dues with approval from the Executive Committee and consultation with The Society.

A Chapter shall report promptly to the NY Society Chair and the Chief Executive Officer the adoption of Chapter bylaws and amendments, and shall report at least once a year on the Chapter's activities.

The Executive Committee may authorize NY Society Student Chapters upon written petition of 15 or more student members at a: (1) Society of American Foresters-accredited institution or a candidate institution for accreditation, (2) Society of American Foresters recognized forest technical program or a candidate program, or (3) New York State accredited two or four year college.

Student Chapter officers shall serve from the beginning of the school year to the beginning of the next school year and shall be students or graduate students who are members of The Society.

## **ARTICLE 11 – MEETINGS**

The NY Society's annual meeting shall be held on a date established each year by the Executive Committee with at least 30-days' notice to the membership. The Annual Meeting and other meetings shall not be scheduled to conflict with the annual meeting of The Society.

At least one business meeting, consisting of no less than 5 percent of the NY Society's voting membership, shall be held during the year to conduct business of sufficient importance to require careful consideration by the membership. Business meetings may be held separately of, or in conjunction with, the Annual Meeting of the NY Society. Business meetings notifications shall be sent to the membership at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

The NY Society Chair, with the approval of the Executive Committee, shall schedule other meetings as needed. Meetings may be open to friends of the members and other interested persons for the exchange of ideas on subjects of interest to the profession of forestry. Important business matters that cannot be delayed until the next business meeting may be submitted to the voting membership by mail or electronic ballot.

All NY Society meetings shall be conducted according to "Roberts Rules of Order (Revised)," except as otherwise specified in these Bylaws and in The Society's Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE 12 – RECALL**

Any NY Society officer may be removed from office for reason of misconduct, incompetence, or neglect of duty provided such removal is approved by a two-thirds vote of the members voting. Such ballot may be initiated by: (1) the Executive Committee on its own volition, or (2) a petition setting forth the points of contention and signed by at least two percent, but in no case less than 10, of the NY Society's members. Ballots shall be sent and received by a member of the Executive Committee as chosen by the Committee.

## **ARTICLE 13 – AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS**

Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by the Executive Committee or upon written petition of at least two percent, but in no case less than 10, of the NY Society's members. Proposed amendments shall be submitted to The Society for approval prior to a ballot of voting members. The Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members voting. Proposed amendments shall be submitted to all voting members at least four weeks in advance of the date set for counting the ballots. Amendments shall be effective immediately upon their approval unless otherwise provided. Voting may take place by ballot via mail or electronic means.

## **ARTICLE 14 – ASSETS**

NY Society assets belong to the NY Society membership as a whole. In the event of division or merger of state societies, the assets of the current state society(s) will be audited and allocated to the new state society(s) in proportion to the percentage of the voting members transferred.

Upon the dissolution of the NY Society, the Executive Committee shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities, transfer the NY Society's residual assets to The Society, or dispose of the assets for the purposes of the NY Society in such manner, or to such organizations operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes which qualify as exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

*The original Bylaws were adopted by the NY Society's members on August 5, 1988. Amended Bylaws were adopted by the NY Society's members on October 30, 1996, and on February 4, 2005.*

*This current version of revised Bylaws was adopted by the NY Society's members on November 30, 2017.*