New England Music Festival Association

Executive Board Meeting Agenda & Minutes

Date: December 13, 2024
Location: Comfort Inn, Griswold, CT
375 Voluntown Rd, Griswold, CT 06351
Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Google Meet Joining Info (Eddie Wilkin):
Video call link: https://meet.google.com/unu-ipck-znj
Or dial: (US) +1 929-249-4817 PIN: 434 918 316#

Facilitator: John Deeb

NEMFA Executive Board Members/Attendance

☑ John Deeb, President	☑ Robert Gattie, S & Ensemble Festival	☑ Eddie Wilkin, Social Media
☑ Jennifer Chambers, President Elect	☑ Steffen Parker, S & Ensemble Festival	☐ Pamela Rodgers, Dean of Students
☐ Marjorie Rooen, Immediate Past President	☑ Tom Reynolds, Bulletin	☐ Molly Clark, Chorus Manager
☑ William Sittard, Exec. Secretary-Treasurer	☐ Amy Ranta, Interim Co-Chair Membership ☑ Lauren Churchill, Interim Co-Chair Membership	☑ Paul Pierce, Orchestra Manager ☑ Matt Davide, Jazz Band Manager ☐ Stephanie Zak, Festival Host
☐ Lyvie Beyrent, Recording Secretary	☐ Frank Whitcomb, Librarian	☑ Angelica Jackson, Band Manager

Others in attendance:

Topic	Discussion	Next Steps
Welcome/Call to Order/Roll Call - JD & LB	Called to order 7:05 PM by President John Deeb	

New England Music Festival Association (cont'd)

Topic	Discussion	Next Steps
Secretary's Report/Acceptance of 9/14/2024 EB Minutes - LB (see below)	Motion: To accept the minutes from the June 1, 2024 meeting - Steffen Parker / Tom Reynolds Action: Motion approved (unanimous)	
Association Member Comments	No members present	
Board Member Reports:		
Exec Sec/Treasurer - BS	Sent treasurer's report via email to all on December 12th - $49,033.64 investment / $23,876.18 checking Motion: To approve the treasurer's report as distributed - Steffen Parker / Tom Reynolds Action: Motion approved (unanimous)	
Past President - MR	No report	
President Elect - JC	Starting work on 100th anniversary: Tom Reynolds: Is there a committee? JC: Yes, in the process of being formed and setting a meeting schedule	
Bulletin - TR	Steffen Parker: Kudos on great bulletins TR: Would like to have next bulletin out by January 25th; Will need copy and information that should go in the Concert Festival bulletin; Website: Would like to work with host to get it posted and work with Lauren on improving it	Website improvement plan

New England Music Festival Association (cont'd)

Topic	Discussion	Next Steps
	JD: Nominates Lauren Churchill to be the new webmaster Discussion: Angelica Jackson voiced her approval for Lauren, noting her work in the past Motion: To appoint Lauren Churchill as webmaster - Tom Reynolds / Bill Sittard Action: Motion approved (one abstaining)	
Solo & Ensemble Festival - RG & SP	SP: Online platform still does not work as well as custom, but does work. Lots of late applications, lots of changes Lauren Churchill: Need to charge all a $50 late fee per application and accept payment online with credit card and close out site at deadline SP: Site is closed at deadline and invoice does add late fee, one per school Discussion: Use of credit cards, submitting applications after by students, wanting to include all of who are interested, put the onus on the student, dealing with repertoire, challenges to data entry, what to do in the future, pulldown repertoires in the future RG: WiFi issues at Hartford; A few more adjudicators who are only doing one site this year (all with good reasons); Two concerns about adjudicators manner, but seem isolated incidents	Solo & Ensemble Festival completion tomorrow
Librarian - FW	FW: Nothing to report	

New England Music Festival Association (cont'd)

Topic	Discussion	Next Steps
Membership - LC & AR	LC: Would like sponsor information for sponsor-only page; Would like to add a different membership level for teachers who are not submitting students, who are retired, collegiate members, etc.	Secure sponsor information; Plan for different membership levels
Social Media - EW	EW: Nothing major to report on Social Media; Looking for host to have a room at festival open for various uses including PD options; Finding sponsors who cannot attend unless there is something for them besides chaperoning; Awaiting approval from Castleton University / Vermont State University for credit approval Tom Reynolds: What about credits for Massachusetts members? EW: Attending course and receiving certificate would work for most; Looking for topic suggestions Paul Pierce: What about the use of AI in music?	Collect suggestions on PD topics for festival; Schedule room at Host Site for PD activity
Ensemble Managers - MC, AJ, PP, MD	AJ (Band): Music, folders and instrumentation ready; Steffen Parker: How many (102 on instrumentation); Percussion balanced? (7) PP: Music is Public Domain or composer permission; Steffen Parker: Numbers (76); Percussion balanced? (Yes)	Find a new Jazz Ensemble Manager for 2025 -26

New England Music Festival Association (cont'd)

Topic	Discussion	Next Steps
	MD: Numbers coming up, but cancellations have brought them back; Good sax numbers, poor trumpet numbers; Will deal with balance when needed; MD: Last year as manager, but wants to stay connected (paternity leave); Discussion: Possible contacts within Jazz community; Possible change to performance process by allowing school combos (just like accompanist)	
Festival Host - SZ	No report	Steffen Parker will send updated host handbook
President's Report - JD • Dates for 2025-26 • 2026 Festival Site • Online Google Workspace Sessions in early 2025 (day concerns) • Replacement for MD	JD: See dates below: Option for up to two meetings to be online; 2026 Festival Site: Keene NH (Amanda Paul) a possibility; Looking to have an Online work session via Google Workspace (just eboard) in January & February	Look for info on Google Workspace sessions
Constitution Update/Draft Discussion RG, FW & EW	Motion: To return the Constitution Update motion to the floor for discussion; Tom Reynolds / Paul Pierce Action: Approved (unanimous) EW: The draft now has all of the suggestions / edits made at the September meeting and since via email; Asked that everyone take a look at it now; Lauren Churchill: Questions about some of the specifics in the draft	

New England Music Festival Association (cont'd)

Topic	Discussion	Next Steps
	Steffen Parker: Concerned about the ByLaws being too specific Discussion: ByLaws can be changed at any time; So they can contain specific information that can be altered by the EBoard Tom Reynolds: Post them as two separate documents Motion: To accept the draft of the Constitution and ByLaws as two separate documents; Steffen Parker / Tom Reynolds Further Discussion: Separating will help make this work Action: Approved (vote unanimous)	
Old (Unfinished) Business JD	Motion: Students may perform any vocal solo or vocal ensemble voice part regardless of gender or transgender status - Steffen Parker / Angelica Jackson (made and seconded online - 12/8 & 12/9/24 Discussion: On counter-tenor and castrati and how they fit; Do we select instruments that do not fit into our program (balalaika for example) Jennifer Chamber: Landscape has changed significantly - tough to navigate	

New England Music Festival Association (cont'd)

Topic	Discussion	Next Steps
	Lauren Churchill: Make sure that they cannot perform the same piece twice (in our procedures already) Action: Motion withdrawn with second follow - Steffen Parker / Angelica Jackson Motion: All students may perform any voice part that fits their vocal range and abilities: Eddie Wilkin / Bill Sittard Discussion: Will this work for S&E coordinators? Jennifer Chamber: EBoard should go to training about this issue; Action: Approved (all but one abstention)	
New Business		
Other Business	Tom Reynolds: Is getting adult performers to fill out the ensembles the host or manager's responsibility? Steffen Parker: It is the manager's with any help they can get Lauren Churchill: Question about selection and preference - We follow our policy of following student preference whenever possible - We do our best to follow student preference	

New England Music Festival Association (cont'd)

Topic	Discussion	Next Steps
Adjournment	Adjourned at 9:25 pm - Steffen Parker / Paul Pierce	

Additional Questions/Concerns/Meeting Highlights:

EB Minutes 9-14-24 - Google Docs

NEMFA Constituion and Bylaws.pdf

NEMFA Constituion 2024.pdf

NEMFA ByLaws 2024.pdf

Continues Below

New England Music Festival Association (cont'd)

Next Meeting – Friday, March 14, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.
Location: TBD

2025 EB Meeting Schedule	Future Concert Dates
March 14, 2025	2025 - March 13-15
June 7, 2025	2026 - March 19-21
September 6, 2025	2027 - March 18-20
December 12, 2025	2028 March 16-18