



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

November 9, 2022 1 PM

via Webex

Participating: Executive Committee members- Steve Harris, Phil Healey, Glen Roberts, Mike Treglia; and Board Directors: Christopher Anderson, Nina Bassuk, Mark Beamish, Joe Charap, Mike DeMarco, Vincent Drzewucki, Karen Emmerich, Jeanne Grace, Ross Hassinger, Andrew Hillman, Greg Michel, Alicia Ragusa, Jean Zimmerman; Ex-Officios: Gloria VanDuyne (NYS DEC), Christina McLaughlin (NYS DEC), Eric Greenfield (US Forest Service); Taking Root Editor, Michelle Sutton and Executive Secretary, Liana Gooding.

Motion made and seconded to **approve the minutes of the July 21, 2022 Board meeting.** All were in favor, motion carried.

Finance Report: Liana presented the 3rd quarter Financial Report (attached to and made part of these minutes).

Quick Start and Tree City Rewards Grants: Committee Chair, Karen Emmerich, reported that there are 3 open Quick Start grants from the 2022 spring round. She and Liana are working on following up with those communities. The fall round of the Tree City grants is in progress with planting events taking place in October and November with final reports due by the end of the year. The next round of the Quick Start grants would normally be in January for a spring planting/event but it may need to be delayed if decision is made to incorporate any Equity, Justice, and Inclusion ideas into the grants or that may be put off until the following round.

Volunteer Hours: Liana reminded everyone of the importance of the Board members submitting volunteer hours needed for the match for the Forest Service grants. A reminder and template were sent out at the end of the 3rd quarter.

Strategic Plan Committee: Steve will follow up with Chair, James Kaechele, on the status of the project. James was preparing the scope of work for services with a consulting firm to help the Council draft a strategic plan.

Equity, Justice, and Equality Consultant: Steve reported that he is working with Christina Smith to negotiate a new contract for her services. He plans to pay her for any hours she has worked to date and no more until a new contract is in place. Steve said Christina has asked for more engagement from the Board and a committee

to work with if she agrees to another contract. The Council needs to refine what they would like her help with and to define how do they want to impact change. Some questioned entering into another contract with Christina until those things are worked out, but Steve would like to continue with the work recently begun.

Scholarship Committee: Steve reported that Glenn Gentzke has agreed to serve as Committee Chair. The Executive Committee has agreed to grant scholarships for the SMA Conference to Andy Hillman and Jean Zimmerman. Glenn will be asked to send information to Michelle about announcing the availability of scholarships for the winter ISA Conference in January.

Executive Secretary job posting: Steve apologized to all for not announcing that Liana had let him know in August that she will not be renewing her contract for 2023. Steve is finalizing the job announcement and plans to have it out asap with application due by Nov 30th. Steve is looking for volunteers to help him in the selection process.

Motion made to adjourn. All were in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Liana Gooding, Executive Secretary