

NH Network Steering Committee Retreat, The Ledges, Alexandria, NH - May 4, 2024

[Retreat May 4 Minutes](#)

Attending: Patsy Beffa-Negrini, Paul Friedrichs, John Gage, Cindy Heath, Rob Pinnoneault, Mary Beth Raven, Susan Richman, Reinmar Seidler

Remotely: Chris Skoglund, Donna Reardon

Facilitator: Rob Pinnoneault

Minutes: Mary Beth Raven, Susan Richman

Action items

THE ELECTION

- NHNetwork **Comms WG** create flyer of election actions for members to take in their towns, beginning June 14.

Look at KSC material last year from Rob Claflin

- **Chris Skoglund** to draft a set of climate/energy/environment questions that people can ask Candidates

- **Summit Planning** to include statewide collaboration on the elections

NEW REQUESTS:

JOHN GAGE: Would you make a map of towns to show where people are taking on this challenge?

EVERYONE/ANYONE: set a date before June 14 for web event with partner groups to discuss their political actions that NHN members can join. (and we launch the Every Town plan.)

Contact groups to participate (AND ASK ABOUT AUGUST PARTICIPATION):

- Donna – KSC. D has made contact.
- Susan - 350
- ?? - LCV
- ? John - CCL?
- ? Paul - Healthcare Workers?
- ?? - Third Act?

OMG JUST VOTE T-Shirts?

SUMMIT PLANNING

check on venues – August 10 or 24

- Reinmar – Plymouth, Audubon Society in Concord or in Hebron [Emailed and awaiting reply from Audubon; PSU has a space but it's a busy wkend & Lisa Doner (Prof) recommended a UU church which I've written to as well.]
- Chris – Winnisquam HS
- Rob – local church
 - Donna - Concord Community Center
- Paul F: SELT
- Mary Beth: ask Julia Steed Mawson about IPL locations
- Susan: ask Environmental Round Table members

INVITATIONS:

EVERYONE/ANYONE: Notify key partners of intent, ascertain interest in attending/planning/facilitating, availability Aug 10/24

Record results on Mary Beth's spreadsheet:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1GTn2VxJ5glCfiPXNPVIQ0D4gPykHw2q3_RbCiRuRq_k/edit#gid=0

Susan - draft letter to send to key group leaders & legislators

LAST YEAR's attendees:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1a_I-M1OQPmD7kybYxvODrE_laQ4rYbXyjWz6wSJZj-Y/edit#gid=0

And invited last year:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15LBn53qirPiUF3QXI5leVXgEhjySQTN9/edit#gid=1478406781>

FUNDING

After May 15 Steering Cmte mtg with Hayley, will decide who contacts which organization (Reinmar doing some already & will make this a research priority this wk)

Ask partner groups if they want to share part-time worker (Who? When? Do at Summit??)

SUCCESSION

Add a new Steering Cmte member yearly; make the invitation at WG meetings. Revisit in the fall.

Minutes

GOALS FOR THE YEAR- May to May

Financial Structure/Funding Decision: Stay the way we are with NH Healthcare Workers as fiscal agent, remain grassroots, seek funding for part-time Executive Director and part-time website help.

Discussion around the above decision: We are satisfied with the work we are currently able to do as a subsidiary of NH Healthcare workers. We do not need to be a 501c3 to get some grants; becoming a 501c3 would be a lot of work and on-going expense. Possible funding sources: the Grassroots Fund, Community Action Works, NH Charitable Fund; Hayley Jones will be giving us other funding ideas at 5/15/24 Steering Committee, and then we need to decide who will make the application for which organization.

Purpose for such funding:

#1 to pay for a part-time executive director (\$10,000 minimum). An Executive Director would provide a point person for interaction with other groups, media, the public. Would be able to explore other ways for NH Network to grow. Someone with deeper knowledge of the science.

#2 give additional support for website upkeep (Kennedy probably would not have time to do more).

Rob P is pursuing other project-based funding ideas.

Do not solicit funds from members - we are unique in our openness, volunteer status, free from solicitation. Advantages that make us attractive for other groups to work with us: don't have to

answer to funders or a national organization, low barrier to entry, everyone has a chance to speak, transparency.

Could we work with our member groups to possibly hire someone jointly – even a part time person?

BTW: Clean Energy NH is NOT listed as a partner on our website (discuss with Sam E-B?). The Nature Conservancy in New Hampshire?

Involvement in upcoming elections. Candidates' filing deadline is June 14; Primaries on Sept 10.

On the coattails of others: How can we help our members get political involvement with other climate/energy groups, such as 350, LCV, Kent Street, NH Healthcare Workers or Third Act? **SCHEDULE AN EVENT (by June 14?)** where each of these groups explains their election activities and how NH Network members could join in, and/or get training

Donna- Kent Street

Susan - 350

? Paul - NH Healthcare Workers

_____ -Third Act

_____ - LCV

Create our own statewide one-town-at-a-time election network (by June 14? Launch as part of our May/June EVENT [above] with partner groups?): Perhaps most important! “Deputize” all our members to engage with the candidates in their own towns – running for state reps and senator. **Comms WG create a flyer of actions** so folks aren’t overwhelmed - know how to begin, can find their comfort level, and offer the list of possible questions to ask the candidates. (Look at material from Rob Claflin’s 2020 presentation.)

FLYER to include: Find out from town offices when any Candidates Forums are scheduled. Provide the Forum leaders with E/E/C questions we would like them to ask the candidates. Can call candidates, meet them for coffee, share results in any town newsletter, write LTEs (could share results of questions, or suggest the questions which others can ask). Bird-dog: Attend candidate events and ask questions. Check candidates’ Facebook pages and suggest to them that they address climate issues on their Facebook page if they don’t already. Pledge to get 10 other people to do the same over the summer, and get 10 others to VOTE on Sept 10. (Have T-shirts made, “OMG Just Vote”)

Ask members for other suggestions.

May have different strategies after September.

? Ask members to report back, create a map of NH like CCL does, to show towns being covered?

Questions should not only focus on their policies, but (for Gov candidates?) also who are they going to work with or appoint to ensure knowledgeable, vigorous action. **Chris will generate some questions.**

We need to appeal to a variety of people – those who want to be activists, who like to talk to others or stand up at a meeting, and also those who like to stay home but write letters, postcards, or do bake sales. Different modes of engagement, and different depths of involvement. (Allies, advocates and activists.)

Are there particular champions we want to be sure to protect/support? And others (in Epping, Merrimack, elsewhere) needing extra focus on defeating?

Collaborate with other organizations on statewide strategies: to discuss at Summit in August, details below for getting started now.

Summit planning Aug 10 or 24

GOALS: We will keep the summit name “Keep NH Green.”

Coalition building and working on solutions together.

Last year we examined topics/problems, got to know each other, used the opportunity for networking and recruitment. This year we need to focus on how to collaborate, especially as we face the election. This will be a meeting with people already engaged through their organizations and legislators.

INVITE MEDIA - we got a lot of press last year, showed our strength

LOCATION: We funded last year’s summit through a small grant secured by Reinmar. Prescott Farm is now too expensive. USE SPREADSHEET from Mary Beth to record location inquiries.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1GTn2VxJ5gICfiPXNPVIQ0D4qPykHw2q3_RbCiRuRq_k/edit#gid=0

Some possibilities:

Reinmar: Plymouth, Audubon Society in Concord or in Hebron

Chris: Winnisquam HS

Paul F: SELT

Donna: Concord Community Center

Mary Beth: ask Julia Steed Mawson about IPL locations

Susan: ask Environmental Round Table members

Rob: local church

Others: NH Municipal Association, UU Church in Concord, Tin Mountain, World Fellowship Ctr in Albany NH (near Conway)

INVITATIONS:

Susan or others - Draft a letter to send out ASAP to a few of the key group leaders & legislators to share the Aug 24 date and plan, hope for their engagement, see if they have other suggestions (is Aug 10 better; would they like to collaborate now on an agenda committee?) Check our current lists of groups. LAST YEAR’s attendees:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1a_I-M1QQPmD7kybYxvODrE_laQ4rYbXyjWz6wSJZj-Y/edit#gid=0

And invited last year:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15LBn53qirPiUF3QXI5leVXgEhJySQTn9/edit#gid=1478406781>

BEFORE WRITING ANYONE, PLEASE list it on Mary Beth’s Spreadsheet (linked above) PART 2 so we don’t duplicate!

Do we want to look at our larger mailing lists at this time?

Possible discussion topics: ELECTION: how do we get more elected advocates in Concord? How overcome the gerrymandered numbers? How do we increase voter turnout? How mobilize our members? Get people to pledge to bring 10 people to vote. Identify a few key legislators we hope to defeat, and others we need to defend. ON-GOING COLLABORATION: What can we share? Opportunities for working together.

Not decided:

Have a headliner/keynote with a compelling message?

Ask key legislators and organization leaders to give a thumbnail of their work this year? (We can advertise them as our headliners.)

Do we revisit last year's topics and appreciate momentum, progress? (e.g. last year's "recycle" has morphed to "zero waste.")

Chris: advertising for NH energy week did not have panelists advertised. People may like the title but don't commit their time until finding out who the panelists will be (Moral: we need to be clear about topics and speakers for the summit as part of the advertising)

Succession planning

Try to get one new person a year to join the steering committee. Can make a pitch in each of the Working Groups. (Perhaps send out a letter later in the year to the general membership.)

Discuss the rewards of belonging, we make a difference, be part of a community. Talk about having a 2 or 3 year term?

Not discussed today: Hayley had suggested getting members to take a more active role as a step forward.

Endorsement and advocacy: Not discussed today

NOT SURE WHERE TO PUT THIS:

Maybe in our next meeting with Hayley we invite some of the member orgs like 350 or LCV

American conservation coalition – conservative young people -invite them to the summit?(Decision – no - "clean coal" - possibly a front group)