Nor'East Chapter Trout Unlimited-Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

Meeting Held at IRWA Riverbend Headquarters, Ipswich

6:00 PM- Dinner prepared by Kenny Washburn: Chile and corn bread and dessert, cranberry gingerbread by Laurie Hagar

Prior to the meeting, Josh Round informed us that this is his last meeting. He and his wife will be relocating soon to North Carolina for work reasons. All expressed their appreciation for all the effort and work Josh has given to NETU. He will be greatly missed.

6:45 PM- Bill McDavitt presented a brief overview of eDNA graphics.

7:00 PM- Presentation by Graham Haley, East Branch of the Kennebec River guide and fly fishing educator.

8:40 PM-President Ben Meade called the meeting to order

Board Members present: Ben Meade, Fred Jennings, Randy Williams, Laurie Hagar, Carl Soderland, Art Howe via zoom, Miles Cobb, Neil Shea, Chett Walsh

1. Approval of the October 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes: RW moved to approve the minutes and LH seconded. No discussion. Motion approved.

2. Approval of Treasurer's ReportOur previous treasurer, PV provided a financial report electronically prior to the meeting but could not attend. FJ is now the new treasurer and he is working with PV to understand and transition the duties of treasurer. He is working with the bank to obtain a debit card and has check writing capability.The motion was made by RW and seconded by LH to approve the treasure's report. Vote was unanimous. Current balance is $30,105.21

3. Funding/Reimbursement Requests/Upcoming Anticipated Expenditures: Items in the agenda were reviewed including: Zoom annual membership $180.52, cost of meals (without bucket raffle the cost often greater than the $5 paid by members eating) and the monthly fee paid for our website maintenance. It was discussed that we are not sure what the contract said relative to the monthly maintenance, what we are getting for the monthly fee and what we should expect from the website company. BM will talk with BS about this and will obtain a copy of the contract. We then need to review the need to retain the website company.

4. Website Revamp Update: LH with AJ has become our Webmaster and is technically now able to add, edit and re-organize the website. CS reported that when he logged on to our website two days ago, the events list was incomplete. Since two days ago, LH has already added future events and the site looks great. LH will work to add NETU meeting minutes, annual reports of A&E and Cons Com. All agreed the new website looked great and that LH has taken on the challenge. The Board was very appreciative. LH is also trying to update Facebook.

5. Upcoming Chapter Meetings: BM provided a list of past 2026 meeting speakers and events and also a list of upcoming meetings through May, 2027. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 8, 2026 at IRWA. Peter Abdu will be presenting on underwater brook trout photography. FJ is working on the April, 2027 meeting speaker. The Board clarified speaker honorarium which is $250 and $.50/ mile up to $150. The Board also discussed changing the meeting day back to the first non-holiday Monday of the month. FJ is now available Mondays and this would accommodate several members who cannot attend Tuesdays. BM will talk with these members to see if this would help and the Board will re-address this at the end of May, 2027. The 2026-2027 calendar is already organized.

6. Banquet Committee- JR has been the banquet chair the past few years following KB's excellent leadership. JR has done a tremendous amount of work for the Banquet. With JR's departure, there is a need for a new chair. It is not clear who is willing to assume this role. There are no volunteers currently. A lengthy discussion followed and it was felt that NETU should cancel the 2027 banquet and reorganize its leadership and work group to ensure a successful Banquet. No decision was made yet and the Board will discuss this in December, 2026. CW will speak to the venue and see if we can apply the deposit to 2028.

7. Chapter Organization:

    Banquet Committee- No Chair, FJ, BM, Kalil Boghdan, PV, CS, BS

Conservation Committee- Carl Soderland, Chair, BM, NS, FJ, Jim MacDougall, Kalil Boghdan, Chett Walsh, Miles Cobb, Steve Gross and Bill McDavitt

Nominating/Awards Committee- BM, FJ

Activities & Events Committee- Kalil Boghdan, Chair, Craig Andre, MC, FJ, CS, FM

8. Activities & Events- Kalil has been very busy organizing stocking and fishing days and providing photos and write-ups of the events.

9. Conservation Committee Report- The next meeting of the Cons Comm will be Wednesday, November 18,2026 at CS's home 2 Green Street Ipswich.

10. New Business-BM showed pictures of the Howlett Brook fish way. Unfortunately, the head of the fish way is full of debris. It is on private property. NS said that a state agency was supposed to create a maintenance plan for the fish way but he has not seen it. He will contact them concerning this. NETU offered to volunteer to clean this out. The challenge will be what to do with the debris. It could be trucked to the Ipswich transfer station for disposal. The Board will follow up next meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:20PM. Next Chapter meeting Tuesday, December 8, 2026 at IRWA Riverbend following the prentation.