ATTENDANCE:
Board Members: Jim May, Dionne Polk, Steve Foster, Irene Sabin, Bruce Barbour
Guests: Pat Rector, Michele Bakacs
Vice-President Jim May called the meeting to order at 10:20am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The July 18, 2013 minutes were approved as written.

Bruce Barbour introduced Pat Rector, Environmental Agent from Somerset and Morris Counties, and Michele Bakacs, Environmental Agent from Middlesex and Union Counties.

- Pat worked with the RES Duke 2013 class and will start a January, 2014 class at Duke Farms on Thursday evenings from 6:30 – 9:30pm. The lecture series is already set for this class. Before becoming a Rutgers Agent, Pat worked at the NJDEP in Watershed Management. She was hired by the Rutgers Water Resources Program and still works on water projects for that program.

- Michele was originally hired by the Rutgers Water Resources Program and is now an Environmental Agent in Middlesex and Union Counties. She will start a RES class at the Earth Center in Middlesex County on Wednesday evenings, 6:30 – 9:30pm in January. The Earth Center is located 10 minutes from Rutgers campus and she plans to use speakers and develop curriculum as well as internships mostly for local projects in restoration and watershed management.

RES PROGRAM COORDINATOR’S REPORT - Bruce

- Other Classes starting in January: Belvidere plans to hold a daytime class. ACUA is expected to start, as usual. Amy Rowe, another Environmental Agent, will start a RES class on Tuesday evening in Passaic County. Sal Mangiafico (Salem, Gloucester) will develop curriculum for online courses.

- The 2013 Graduation/Certification will be held at Duke Farms on Tuesday, October 22, 2013 in the Coach Barn. Lunch will be provided by Gail Rosati of Organic Diversion. The Executive Board officers are invited to speak about RESAA and some of the certifying alumni will present their internship projects.

- There is no record of whether holding display tables has helped to promote the program. It was suggested that brochures be left at libraries and other high traffic areas. Class information could be placed in the newsletters of non-profits.

- What RESAA can do to help alumni stay connected: Join projects with other alumni; invite MGs to RES projects; visit RES classes and network with new students; give guidance for internships; Sustainable Jersey was recommended as a good source of projects. Steve said that the RESAA website is a valuable connection for alumni but it is underused and underpromoted.
CORRESPONDENCE

- Notes of appreciation were sent to NJDEP for the Forum. One speaker sent additional websites and this information was added to the summary
- Received two short summaries of discussions from the General Meeting on July 30, 2013
- Steve wrote to say the map he developed is available for use when needed
- Bill and Dionne sent newspaper articles for inclusion on the website
- Emails were received from three alumni expressing concerns about further preservation of Open Space and the diversion of Open Space funds for other purposes. A question was asked about state goals for Open Space. Is there a state Open Space Master Plan and how does each municipality fit into that plan? A request was made for more information on the benefits of Open Space

COMMITTEE REPORTS: 2013 Forum/ Meeting Evaluation

- Steve stated that he thought the group networking format should be continued with adequate time allotted for discussion at the next General Meeting
- Tanya Oznowich (NJDEP) suggested that we hold the Forum on the same date/day of week/month each year because this would make it easier to schedule speakers ahead of time and reserve the public room. Bruce sent two dates in July for the 2014 Forum but has not yet received a reply from the NJDEP.

Further evaluation of the 2013 Forum/ General Meeting was postponed until next meeting

- Website: Bill and Dionne sent newspaper articles that they wanted to be posted on the website because they thought the information was interesting and important for alumni to know. Bruce said that we do not post opinion articles and are not able to accommodate all articles of interest to RES alumni and it is not our purpose. It was suggested that individuals can start their own social media sites and we can post a link to their sites on the RESAA website.

OLD BUSINESS

Steve brought the map he developed which shows the widespread location of RES volunteers in the state and left it with Bruce

NEW BUSINESS

Irene suggested that we name alumni who attend meetings regularly as alternates to the Executive Board. They would have voting rights when all nine listed members are not present. This would make it easier to have a quorum.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - none

The Next RESAA Meeting TBA

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,
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