

# NEMPET, Inc.

NorthEastern Microbiologists: Physiology, Ecology and Taxonomy

## PRESIDENT/TREASURER

Craig D. Phelps, Ph.D.  
Rutgers University

## SECRETARY

Michael J. Hanophy, Ph.D.  
St. Joseph's College, NY

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### 2021

Michael P. Labare, Ph.D.  
U.S. Military Academy

Shantanu Bhatt, Ph.D.  
St. Joseph's University

### 2022

Christa Chatfield, Ph.D.  
SUNY Cortland

Michael J. Hanophy, Ph.D.  
St. Joseph's College, NY

### 2023

Elizabeth Hutchison, Ph.D.  
SUNY Geneseo

Jeffrey Werner, Ph.D.  
SUNY Cortland

### *Ex Officio*

Craig D. Phelps, Ph.D.  
Rutgers University

## Annual Meeting of NEMPET, Inc.

### Via Zoom

December 29, 2020

- Craig Phelps called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM. The following people were in attendance: Catalina Arango (St. Joseph's University), Christa Chatfield (SUNY Cortland), Michael Hanophy (St. Joseph's College), Elizabeth Hutchison (SUNY Geneseo), Michael Labare (U.S. Military Academy), Craig Phelps (Rutgers University), Jeff Werner (SUNY Cortland), and Jacob Phelps. Shantanu Bhatt (St. Joseph's University) was not present.

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### MOTION 2020 BOT 1: Jeff Werner moved to accept the minutes of the 2019 meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> (Michael Labare)

Motion carried (unanimous)

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## NEW BUSINESS

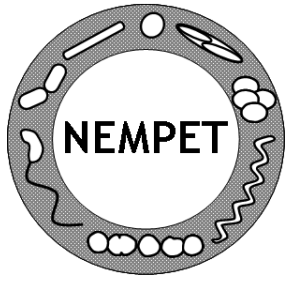
### 2020 BOT elections

- The following people were elected to three year terms:

TRUSTEE (2020-2023)	Elizabeth Hutchison
TRUSTEE (2020-2023)	Jeffrey Werner

### *President's Report*

- Due to the constraints placed on gatherings in NYS by the SARS-COVID 19 pandemic, the organization will be unable to hold the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at the Minnowbrook Lodge in June 2020. This is particularly unfortunate because this meeting had been funded by the ASM and guest speakers appropriate to the theme had been lined up. There was also an expectation that attendance for the meeting would be significant.
- Fortunately, Minnowbrook Lodge has agreed to apply the deposit for the 2020 meeting to the 2021 meeting. The ASM has also agreed to apply the \$2000 grant to the 2021 meeting
- NEMPET also continues to receive donations for some vendors and sponsors (i.e. Artologica, Vexed Muddler, etc.)
- After 2019 conference, the organization had \$4809.98 in the general fund.



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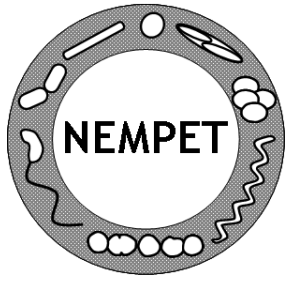
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## **Scholarship Fund**

- The scholarship fund contained \$4070.50 at the conclusion of the 2019 conference. There have been additional donations to the fund, primarily towards the Douglas Eveleigh scholarship, in the amount of \$1500. This brings the current fund to \$5570.50.

## **Future Planning**

- The Board discussed plans for the 2021 meeting, noting that it could be virtual or hybrid. While a virtual event would require more and different planning than a traditional event, it would be less demanding financially.
- While eligibility differs in each state, it was believed that it would be reasonable to assume that educators in NY, NJ, and PA (Group 1B) would be vaccinated by late June. The vaccination of graduate/undergraduate students by that time was in doubt.
- The actual minimal occupancy for Minnowbrook is 28 (though the lodge may not necessarily hold us to that number and charge us the minimum stated in the contract). It was estimated that the actual number of guests at the Minnowbrook that would allow the organization to break even is closer to 20.
- Craig noted that he will need considerably more help to run virtual a virtual event. We may also need to change dates, the length of the conference, etc.
- Questions were raised about how speakers might feel about online presentations and how we might be able to deal with the hands-on component planned as part of the "Visualizing Microbes" theme.
- It was agreed that the conference must include an opportunity for student posters and talks.
- The Board agreed that it needed more specific ideas about how to run an effective virtual conference. It was suggested that those who were available should attend the Pioneer Valley Microbiology Symposium (PBMS) on January 29, 2021.
- The Board will meet again in early February to continue to discuss possibilities.



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**MOTION 2020 BOT 2: Mike Labare moved to adjourn.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>** (Jeff Werner)

**Motion carried (unanimous)**

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- The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Hanophy  
Secretary

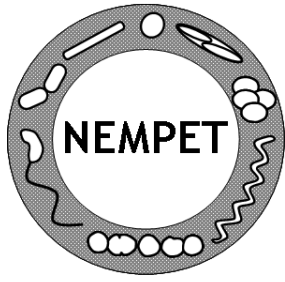
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## Meeting of the NEMPET Board of Trustees

**Via Zoom**

**March 19, 2021**

- Craig Phelps called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM. The following people were in attendance: Christa Chatfield (SUNY Cortland), Michael Hanophy (St. Joseph's College), Elizabeth Hutchison (SUNY Geneseo), Michael Labare (U.S. Military Academy), and Craig Phelps (Rutgers University).
- Craig had been in contact with Kevin at Minnowbrook who indicates that the Lodge is open and can host conferences in 2021. It is currently only doing single rooms though there may be changes over the next 3 months. Minnowbrook also has a camera in the classroom so that virtual attendance is a possibility. After his discussions with Minnowbrook, Craig felt that it would be possible to hold almost a full conference this summer if we allowed for some remote attendance and were flexible.
- Some concerns were raised regarding a 2021 Conference:
  - Would college reimburse/insure faculty travelling during the pandemic?
  - Would enough students be vaccinated to have a presence at the meeting?
  - Should/could we require that attendees at the conference to be vaccinated?



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- Several suggestions were made concerning remote option for the conference:
  - Talks could be remote, in person, or even prerecorded.
  - It was noted that the use of Gathertown app (seen at PVMS) might be an effective platform for poster presentations. Posters could also be recorded as was done at the 2020 ASM conference.
  - Breakout rooms could be used for interaction at the conference (perhaps creating themed rooms for career chat, student chat, etc.)
  - There could be a trivia contest.
  - We could continue the raffle but must be cautious about laws that prohibit games of chance (this might be circumvented by offering raffle prizes as door prizes for attendees with tickets). Craig noted that we still have 30 wooden microscopes and several foldoscopes that can be used as prizes.
  - It was suggested that the microbe walk be streamed and that there be video submissions to a virtual microbe walk.
- A remote registration was suggested (pay nominal fee \$10 perhaps through Venmo to get the conference links)
- The meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Hanophy  
Secretary