



## *Geological Society of Connecticut*

### *Steering Committee Meeting*

*Nov 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Hartford Marriott Rocky Hill, CT*

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**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Janet Stone at 5:30pm

**Attendees:** Janet Stone; Ralph Lewis; Gail Batchelder; Jelle De Boer;  
Peter LeTourneau; Mark Lewis; Margaret Thomas; Mike Wizevich

Jelle started off with an inquiry regarding balloting and election of officers, wondering when it would be scheduled.

Janet explained that Society Bylaws need to be drafted for review by the Steering Committee. The suggestion was made to refer to those of similar professional organizations in other states such as NH. Consideration is to be made regarding non-taxable / non-profit organization language, and rules specific to CT.

**Bylaws Subcommittee** will be chaired by Mike Wizevich. Other members are Mark Lewis, Gail Batchelder, and Margaret Thomas. The subcommittee will draft society bylaws for review by the Steering Committee.

Discussion ensued regarding retaining legal assistance. No commitments have been made, although the process has been started with attorneys from Mike Ziska's law firm.

An **Incorporating Board** has been developed by 6 volunteer members of the Steering Committee. The Incorporating Board will be represented by Gail Batchelder, Janet Stone, and Randy Steinen. We need clarification from the attorneys regarding costs. The work referenced during the discussion did not appear to be pro-bono or at a reduced fee. The first priority is to investigate our potential tax liability for this year, and acquire tax exempt status.

Peter recommended we hire an accountant he is familiar with, who is versed in tax issues and can assist us with financial record keeping.

**Treasury Report:** The Treasurer's report forwarded to the Steering Committee members by Randy Steinen was reviewed. The report issued a balance of \$3299.78 with no outstanding bills. A contribution of \$500 by Iraj Rastegar was mentioned, with the potential for corporate match by Exxon/Mobil when the Society acquires non-profit status. The donor is to receive notification of an Honorary Membership.

**Logos:** The Society Logo contest is continuing with design submissions to be accepted until the next general meeting. All submissions will be posted on the GSC web site for member review. A vote by the membership will be taken at the next general meeting. The prize for the selected logo design is a free annual membership.

**Domain Name:** There was a general interest in acquiring a Society domain name. Margaret will check into the availability of [www.geologicalsocietyofconnecticut.org](http://www.geologicalsocietyofconnecticut.org); [www.geosocietyofconnecticut.org](http://www.geosocietyofconnecticut.org), and similar names. An appropriate domain name will be purchased and redirected to the current hosting site at Wesleyan.

**Member Questionnaire:** Questionnaire responses regarding meetings were reviewed.  
**Meetings-** A meeting frequency of 2x/yr and 3x/yr had the highest number of votes. There was discussion regarding the type of meetings that would be desirable, including 2 dinner meetings or a symposium. Based on the questionnaire responses, a Spring Field Trip should be the next meeting. The target date for the field trip meeting is the first Saturday in May, as not to interfere with the academic calendar. We will also have the questionnaire posted on the web site and continue to collect responses from the membership.

As our first Annual Meeting talks were Mesozoic, it was considered there should be a follow up Mesozoic fieldtrip. Some suggested sites were Cinque Quarry; O&G Quarry in Branford; Judges Cave on West Rock. As these are sites in the New Haven area, we may be able to engage Yale University as a host location. A host location can serve as a staging area for morning trip introductions, a lunch time meeting place, and potentially an after trip social. Mike mentioned, a desire to encourage more student involvement in the Society with additional activities at a reduced cost. There was also a suggestion that T-shirts be made for the fieldtrips.

Field Trip site descriptions, road logs, and parking directions can be posted on our web site as pdf documents. Members must pre-register for fieldtrips in order to enable transportation planning.

Other field trips mentioned for the future included a Coastal Trip for the fall, and a NW Landscapes trip.

Fieldtrips can also be credited as CEQs for teachers and LEPs. Gail Batchelder will arrange for this through the CT Licensing Board of Examiners. Janet Stone will contact Tony Philpotts, and Peter Le Tourneau will contact Nick McDonald to follow-up on a potential Spring Society Field Trip Meeting. The desired date is Saturday May 1<sup>st</sup>, with a rain date of Sun May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Membership:** There are currently 146 members of the Society, including 11 student members. The member mailing list will be reviewed to check for errors and omissions. Several new members have been added since the first meeting. Membership recruitment should include notification for colleagues who are not currently members, and an attempt to increase student involvement. Costs for meetings and field trips will be reduced for students.

Gail Batchelder distributed a draft press release to the committee in attendance. The press release announces the formation of the Society and reports on the first meeting. Comments on the draft press release should be sent to Gail Batchelder as soon as possible.

**Next Steering Committee Meeting:** Jan 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 @ 5:30pm Marriott Rocky Hill.

**Meeting Adjourned @ 7:15pm.**