

Instant Message

Issue 1009 • May 2024



Instant Message is the newsletter of the New England Science Fiction Association. It is published every month with a meeting, usually 11 issues per year. The NESFA clubhouse is located at 504 Medford St, Somerville MA 02145. Our telephone number is 617-625-2311. Our website is <https://www.nesfa.org>. We can be reached via email at roster@nesfa.org for address changes and other updates to the roster, sales@nesfa.org for questions about NESFA Press, and info@nesfa.org for other questions about NESFA. NESFA® and Boskone® are registered trademarks of the New England Science Fiction Association, Inc. For access to the NESFA/Boskone Discord server: <https://tinyurl.com/BoskoneDiscord>.

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IM online: www.nesfa.org/IM, **User name:** May2024 **Password:** QuinnBirds (all case-sensitive).

To receive the *IM* by email, sign up at nesfa.org/lists.html for a PDF (im-pdf) or a message containing a link to a PDF and its password (im-announce). Other NESFA mailing lists are also available. To stop paper *IMs*, email roster@nesfa.org.

NESFA Meeting Attendance List (2024-5-12)@

Gloria Lucia Albasi	Dave Cantor	Dan Elton	Tony Lewis	Kelly Persons
Dave Anderson	Lis Carey	Dave Grubbs	Paula Lieberman	Joe Ross
Ted Atwood	Joni Dashoff	Mike Kerpan	Ken London	Kristin Seibert
Wes Brodsky	Gay Ellen Dennett	Rick Kovalcik	Mary Olszowka ¹	Geri Sullivan
Ann Broomhead	Jan Dumas	Suford Lewis	Peter Olszowka	Tim Szczesuil

@ This month everyone attended via Zoom

^[1] Zack and Samantha Olszowka were present with their parents

Proxies:

Judy Bemis to Sharon Sbarsky.
Chip Hitchcock to Tim Szczesuil

NESFA Business Meeting 2024-5-12

Meeting started at 2:05 pm EDT

Ask the Clerk to enable the recording and transcription function.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:05 PM EDT.

(Quorum for a meeting (30% of regular membership): currently 9, or 30% of 27)

SECRET BALLOTS FOR VARIOUS OFFICER ELECTIONS DETERMINED TO BE POTENTIALLY NECESSARY

CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

I (Mike) forgot to change the header for the clerk's report. I am, in fact Clerk. Additionally, I received a report that James Boggie had been left off the attendance list. After verifying his attendance, I agree that this should be corrected.

Updates to previous minutes accepted by unanimous consent.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (RICK KOVALCIK):

Someone by email was looking for someone to do a Zoom about Hal Clement. Hearing no interest here we will try reaching out to Mark Olson.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT (SHARON SBARSKY): No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT (ANN BROOMHEAD):

NESFA's cash position as of April 2024 is:

Checking Account = \$47,766.41 (end of March = \$45,974.13)

Boskone 61 Bank Account = \$15,419.25 (end of March = \$33,636.54)

PayPal Account = \$500.00 (end of March = \$492.45)

Postage Due Account = \$11.14

The current cash balance is \$63,696.80.

The end of March balance was \$80,114.26. The difference is a decrease of \$16,417.46.

CLERK'S REPORT (MICHAEL KERPAN):

I was just appointed as Clerk and confirmed by the membership last month. I got the first IM out slightly later than planned but I have a plan to speed things up and get it back to either 10 days after the meeting or 6 days.

EBOARD REPORT (RICK KOVALCIK FOR MICHAEL KERPAN):

The Eboard voted 4-0 to restrict a voting member from having a key.

The Eboard announced two flats (with 4-0) which will become E-rules

If someone brings personal property to the NESFA Clubhouse that is not a donation to NESFA, it must be clearly marked as to the owner (including name and contact information). If it is impractical to mark on the item, email must be sent to the Eboard and relevant committee (Clubhouse, IT, Library, Outreach, etc.).

The chair of the meeting ruled that marking games on the inside of the box is good enough.

NESFA belongings may not be borrowed without the permission of the Eboard or the Chair of the relevant Committee (Clubhouse, Gaming, IT, Library, Outreach, etc.) Whenever possible the Eboard or the Chair of the relevant Committee should poll the active membership to make sure there would not be a conflict because, for example, the item(s) in question would be needed for something else over the same period. Anything borrowed should be returned as soon as possible.

The head of the library committee points out that permission to borrow library materials is automatically granted to all members with a valid library card, so long as they use the proper checkout procedures.

RULES COMMITTEE REPORT (DAVE ANDERSON):

There was a motion to not require auditing of some past fiscal years which was invalid because it conflicted with the ByLaws. A motion to amend the ByLaws and Standing Rules so as to allow that motion and then re-make it will be brought up at the June meeting.

The Rules Committee has approved perfected versions of seven motions and posted notice of them on 3 May 2024 so that they can be included in the minutes of this meeting without being read. To save space in the minutes the versions in this report have been edited down to the minimum required information; more information about some of these items is available in that notice.

==== 2024-03-IM1008.4

Motion to add a new Standing Rule:

If the person in charge of a NESFA Event feels that an attendee at that event is being disruptive or otherwise violating the Code of Conduct, after first speaking to the attendee to try to resolve the situation, they should contact a member of the Eboard or Rules Committee to discuss the situation if it was not resolved by talking to the attendee. They should then take any agreed-upon action. If they cannot contact a member of the Eboard or Rules Committee, they are authorized to remove the subject person from the event if they deem it necessary. No matter what action or actions are taken, the person in charge of the NESFA Event must email both the Eboard and Rules Committee describing the situation and action(s) taken. The subject person may appeal whatever action(s) are taken to the Eboard.

Passes 17 to 0.

==>> Approved resolution:

Add new Standing Rules section 5.10(2):

If the person in charge of a NESFA Event feels that an attendee at that event is being disruptive or otherwise violating the Code of Conduct, they should first speak to the attendee to try to resolve the situation. If that is not successful, they should contact a member of the Eboard or Rules Committee other than themselves to discuss the situation and then take any agreed-upon action. If they cannot contact a member of the Eboard or Rules Committee, they are authorized to remove the subject person from the event if they deem it necessary. No matter what action or actions are taken, the person in charge of the NESFA Event must email both the Eboard and Rules Committee describing the situation and action(s) taken. The subject person may appeal whatever action(s) are taken to the Eboard.

==== 2024-03-IM1008.1

I am moving to create a gaming committee, initially consisting of Stephanie Shields (as Chair), Dave Anderson, Mike Kerpan, Mary O, and Kelly Persons. [RKOV as President]

Passes 17-0

==>> Approved resolution:

In section 1.40 replace "Gaming Coordinator" with "Gaming Committee" wherever it appears.

==== 2024-03-IM1008.2

The eboard moves to change 1.17(4)(a) from

"Active users of the clubhouse may obtain keys. Voting Membership is prima facie evidence of active use, others must be approved by the Executive Board or by the chair of the Clubhouse Committee."

to

“Active users of the clubhouse may obtain and retain keys unless restricted by a vote of the Executive Board. Voting Membership is prima facie evidence of active use, others must be approved by the Executive Board or the chair of the Clubhouse Committee.”

Passes 15-0

==>> Approved resolution:

Amend Standing Rules section 1.17(4)(a) by replacing
“obtain keys”

with

“obtain and retain keys unless restricted by a vote of the Executive Board”

==== 2024-03-IM1008.3

Rick (second: Kristin) moves to repeal the motion about how far in advance Game Days can be scheduled.

Motion to repeal passes 18 to 1.

==>> Approved resolution:

Replace Standing Rules section 1.40(4) with the annotation
“11/23. Repealed 4/24. Was about scheduling Game Days.”

==== 2024-03-IM1008.5

Motion to add a new Standing Rule:

Weaponization of the NESFA or Boskone Codes of Conduct or any Bylaw or other Standing Rule will be considered a violation of the relevant Code of Conduct.

After much discussion friendly amendment to
Misuse or abuse of the NESFA or Boskone Codes of Conduct or any Bylaw or Standing Rule to attack or cause harm will be considered a violation of the relevant Code of Conduct.

Passes 15 to 2

==>> Approved resolution:

Add new Standing Rules section 5.10(3) as above.

==== 2024-03-IM1008.6

[RKOV] While looking through the Standing Rules, I came across these two items:

1.17(8) The Clubhouse Committee shall arrange for the clubhouse to be cleaned at least once per month. It may pay up to \$125 per month for this service.

1.17(9) Up to \$700.00 per year is allocated for snow removal from both the parking lot and the sidewalk.

I plan to move to change the amounts to “any reasonable amount” which is the term used when discussing rodent control.

Passes 18 to 1.

==>> Approved resolution:

In SR 1.17(8) replace “up to \$125 per month” with “any reasonable amount”.

In SR 1.17(9) replace “Up to \$700.00 per year is allocated” with “The Clubhouse Committee may pay any reasonable amount”.

==== 2024-03-IM1007.5

Move to change

Standing Rule SR 4.4(5)M

No item should be added to NESFA's Meetup groups, NESFA's Google Calendar, or any other secondary calendar of NESFA's until it has been approved by a Business Meeting

or the Clerk and added to the official calendar on the NESFA website.

to

Standing Rule SR 4.4(5)M

No item should be added to NESFA's Meetup groups, NESFA's Google Calendar, or any other secondary calendar of NESFA's until it has been approved by a Business Meeting or the EBoard and added to the official calendar on the NESFA website.

Passed by unanimous consent.

==>> Approved resolution:

In section 4.4(5)

replace ‘Clerk’ with ‘EBoard’

==== 2024-03-IM1007.8

The Rules Committee is requested to improve the wording in the Standing Rules regarding specific mailing lists (such as in the motion to rename Regular Members to Voting Members) so as to eliminate technical details.

==>> Approved resolution:

Add new section 1.45(16):

NESFA has many electronic mailing lists for various purposes. To send messages to the ones mentioned in these Standing Rules use these addresses:

(a) For the Voting Members list use nesfa-voting@nesfa.org

(b) For the Active Members list use nesfa-active@nesfa.org

(c) For the Open list use nesfa-open@nesfa.org

(d) For the Announce list use nesfa-announce@nesfa.org

The Rules Committee shall update the email addresses in this section as needed without requiring any further approval.

Add an annotation regarding the short delay in renaming the nesfa-regular mailing list for technical reasons.

In the sections affected below, every name of a mailing list will be a link to SR1.45(16) a/b/c/d as appropriate.

In section 1.14(5)

replace NESFA “Voting Members” with “Voting Members” once

In section 1.45(4)

replace “active-members” with “Active Members” once

In section 1.45(10)

replace “nesfa-annnnounce or nesfa-open” with “Announce or Open”

delete “(nesfa-*@lists.nesfa.org)” in three places

replace “nesfa-active” with “Active Members” twice

replace “nesfa-voting” with “Voting Members” once

replace “Members” with “Members” thrice

In section 1.45(11)

replace “nesfa-voting” with “Voting Members” once

In section 3.6(7)

replace “nesfa-active” with “the Active Members list”

In section 5.6(6)

replace “nesfa-active” with “Active Members” once

In section 5.8(1)

replace “nesfa-voting” with “Voting Members” twice

In section 5.8(2)

replace “nesfa-active” with “Active Members” twice

In section 5.8(3)

replace “nesfa-active” with “Active Members” once

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT (WES BRODSKY): New members since the previous report
Subscribing: Katarina Dutton

Kimi Simmons
Emily Walter
Arthur Thompson
Jordan Plews
Alex K. Streat
Catherine Maring
Matthew Walczak
Meg Stivison
David Hannigan
Rachel Zakuta
Roger Blake
Julia Dahlin
Julia Austein

Family Dependency:
Jarrett McPhee
Nathan Zakuta

Honorary:
Jasper Fforde
Kelley Armstrong

Subscribing rejoined after hiatus:
James A Wolf
Marypaz
Lisa Shapter

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT (TIM SZCZESUIL):

Over the past year, we have fully complied with all required financial filings (tax forms, etc.). I have contacted our paid bookkeeper, and she assures me that we will soon close the books on the past fiscal year so we can file our 990s promptly. A motion passed, but it had to be rewritten for correctness due to technical reasons, which obviates the requirement to audit the Boskones through Boskone 55 (2018). In the past year, we audited Boskone 56 (2019), Boskone 57(2020), and Reconvene (2020, virtual convention). This year, we'll have to audit Boskones 58 (2021, virtual), 59, 60, and 61.

BOSKONE 61 REPORT (MICHAEL KERPAN):

B61 happened. At this point the B61 Memory Book is the only outstanding project but other things since becoming Clerk have eaten my life.

BOSKONE 62 REPORT (JONI DASHOFF):

We have guests. The club needs to choose a Science Speaker and a NESFA Press guest. Tim S reached out to Jasper regarding a NESFA Press book and Jasper declined. We are running a fan table and a waffle party at Balticon. The party will be from 10-12 on Sunday morning. The budget will be discussed and approved at the June meeting
Dave Grubbs mentioned that it is possible to publish a Boskone book by someone other than the main writer Guest. Joni asks if we should consider asking Kelly Armstrong about a possible NESFA Press project. Kristin squees at the prospect. We'll ask and see what happens.

NESFA PRESS REPORT (DAVE GRUBBS):

Summary:

In the past year (since May 2023), we have published one original hardcover:

June 2023 *Living in the Future*, by Robert Silverberg

One hardcover reprint:

May 2023 *Power & Light*, by Roger Zelazny (a fourth printing from the 2009 original hardcover publication)

A batch of comb-bound Hymnals:

As reported in March, Rick Kovalcik created, via our laser printer and some comb binding at FedEx, a dozen copies of the second edition of *NESFA Hymnal Volume One* based on some old scans we found and a new back cover, including a barcode.

And eight ebooks:

January 2024 *Living in the Future*, by Robert Silverberg (from the recent 2023 hardcover)

January 2024 *Here Comes Civilization*, by William Tenn (from our 2001 hardcover publication)

October 2023 All six of our Roger Zelazny books, originally published in hardcover in 2009. Before converting them to ebooks, we had produced twenty printings of the hardcovers of those six volumes.

The Zelazny volumes are more complicated productions than most of our other books, containing images, poetry, and a huge number of footnotes and end notes requiring internal hyperlinks in the ebooks. It took six full months to produce those six ebooks.

News:

Despite my reports to the contrary in the past four IMs, Jim Mann is not working on converting Tenn3 (Dancing Naked) from Pagemaker to InDesign. If the club decides Tenn1 and Tenn2 are doing well, he will ask for the rights to produce an ebook of Tenn3 sometime in the future.

Printed Books:

No printed book projects are in progress or even on the queue. We continue to seek more hardcover projects. Here is another area we would like help with.

It was proposed that we re-typeset both Hymnals in a modern form, a project Dave Grubbs is interested in taking on in a few months. (This involves an unusual, and therefore interesting, typesetting activity, dealing both with formatting lyrics with chord changes and typesetting passages of music.)

An unfulfilled request for a collection of Robert Abernathy's works was received some time ago, but no one has stepped up to be the honcho for that project.

eBooks:

The project to convert John Myers Myers's *Silverlock* from hardcover to ebook is proceeding, albeit slowly, due to the editor's recovery from heart surgery.

Unchanged from last month: The ebook states of both Tenn ebooks are still not available on Amazon, nor are the ebook states of both Fredric Brown books. The issue with the Tenn books revolves around our right to produce Tenn ebooks while the issue with the Brown books revolves around Amazon's claim that the material is in the public domain.

Other ebook projects still pending or potential:

Tenn3 ebook -- see above

Tony Lewis's *Concordance to Cordwainer Smith*

Chris Kovacs's *Ides of October*

Several other potential projects await permissions and the energy to approach them.

Technical items:

Our master ISBNs file is in the NESFA Press Google Drive in 01-Management/Catalog/ISBNs.docx.

NESFA SALES REPORT (TIM SZCZESUŁ):

Sales continue as listed below:

Fiscal Year	Units Sold
2023-2024	2868
2022-2023	2879
2021-2022	3385
2020-2021	3880
2019-2020	3026

I have also generated a list of units sold this year, which I can share with anyone who wishes to see it.

Earlier this year, we performed a trial of advertising NESFA Sales ebooks on several websites. I'm sorry to say that the results were disappointing. We failed even to come close to earning the cost back. If anyone has suggestions for alternative strategies for getting the word out about NESFA books, please feel free to drop me a line.

RKOV asks if we could see a breakdown of Physical vs e-book sales next month. Tim S says that will be possible.

Paula says regarding advertising: word of mouth works and when someone mentions a NESFA Press author on Facebook etc. put in a plug, that works, not much else does. Maybe bookmarks dropped at conventions and such with several books to a bookmark would be economical.

E-COMMERCE REPORT (SHARON SBARSKY):

E-commerce continues. We had a fraud attempt earlier this year, but we were able to find it and deal with it quickly. We're receiving reports that we're running low on space in Miva and we need to figure out why, but it's not urgent. Judy Bemis has been running the regular weekly batches. Boskone reg has moved from Miva to a new reg system, and we hope to do the same for Art Show and Dealers next year.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT (KRISTIN SEIBERT):

Somerville Open Studios was a huge success last weekend [ed. note, May 4-5]! We got to support artists in our community, met many of our neighbors and gained several new members. We also have motions we emailed to y'all about bringing back pun fines, simplifying membership, fixing the clubhouse, and generating income from times the clubhouse isn't being used by NESFA.

BOSTON BOOK FESTIVAL REPORT (KRISTIN SEIBERT):

Same as last month. Still waiting to hear back about whether we got in or not.

SALES AT CONVENTIONS (READERCON) (GAY ELLEN DENNETT):

We are all set. We have paid for two tables and three memberships. I plan to pack on the last Hugo Viewing Day. I will need help getting the books there.

CLUBHOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT (RICK KOVALCIK):

Over the last year the Clubhouse has continued to reopen more fully for NESFA activities.

Major things that have happened over the last year:

- We changed the locks on the clubhouse.
- We canceled our dumpster service as it was costing us almost \$1000 per month. We are looking into other solutions.
- We started having Merrymaids clean the clubhouse again every other week, given the increased use of the clubhouse.
- We rebuilt a number of bookcases to make them fit our books better. There are still two more bookcases to be rebuilt.
- In preparation for SOS (Somerville Open Studios) we did some extra cleaning of the clubhouse including washing the windows we could get to reasonably (note reasonably - not easily).
- We have redone some of the signage, including the sign near the back door, and added a sign on the end of the fence directing people to our parking lot.
- We have replaced the three dead fire extinguishers. We really need to make a note to do this twice a year (check the fire extinguishers).
- We have checked that all the smoke detectors and emergency lights were in working order. We really need to make a note to do this twice a year.
- We have reattached the siding on the front of the building as much as possible.

Things we should do as soon as possible:

- Fix the floor in the main room (assuming the motion under discussion at this meeting passes).
- Replace the missing floor tiles in the blue room.
- Build two new bookcases to replace the non-standard ones and move the non-standard ones down below for give-away books.
- Fix the gutters on the back of the building so that water does not run down behind the gutters (damaging the siding), which is currently happening in at least two places.
- Replace the Lexan in the main room door and Flynn room door with glass - the Lexan on both doors is flawed and contributes to the bad look of the clubhouse. Lexan reacts badly to many things including some cleaning chemicals.
- Motion out of Clubhouse Committee to spend up to \$500 to do the above.
- Get a shade for the main room door and move the signage elsewhere so that the shade can be put up when we are open so that people know that we are open.
- Unless someone wants to make a motion NOT to do this, we will do this as it will be much less than \$100.
- See what other old useless cruft can be removed from the back to make room for other storage.

Things that we should consider short to medium term:

- See about painting "New England Science Fiction Association / www.nesfa.org" on the frosted-over windows in the front (check Somerville Signage Rules).
- Remove the insulation blocking the other windows in the main room and replace the dirty paper with clean paper or something else. Perhaps fake bookcases painted on the inside of the windows with heavy curtains behind them for energy saving that can be removed and cleaned as necessary?
- Fix the back wall of the clubhouse where the dumpster was to remove the windows and add cement siding to match the rest of the back of the clubhouse.

Motion from committee to spend up to \$500 to replace Lexan with real glass in the front doors. Motion passes by unanimous consent.

IT COMMITTEE REPORT (SHARON SBARSKY):

We have installed a new library server that makes the cataloging process faster when multiple people are working. We've also gotten new barcode scanners that don't add junk to scans. Printers continue to work.

COMPUTER COMMITTEE REPORT (RICK KOVALCIK): One of the new printers has issues when you put too much paper into Tray 2. We need to think about whether it makes more sense to upgrade some of our older machines or to get color-accurate monitors for design work

WEB COMMITTEE REPORT (DAVE GRUBBS):

- Deena (our web designer) plans to change the global search to avoid listing past events from the calendar. It does say "Upcoming Events" in the banner, so that would also be true for a website search.
- Boskone Registration ecommerce has been moved from Miva to a new service and program managed by NFPHosting, which also hosts Zambia and ConClár. We hope this ecommerce platform will be expanded to Dealer Room and Art Show sign-up for Boskone 62.
- The swapping of the Boskone website from B61 to B62 has not yet occurred. It is a high priority.
- The website backups are no longer producing login errors. It was an authentication problem.
- We corrected a number of problems in NESFA Press web pages. Some pages still have links buried in them that worked in the pre-WordPress days but no longer function in our current website environment.
- It would be good if NESFA members reviewed our website occasionally. It is our front door banner, so it should be kept clean, correct, and current.
- If you see anything wrong on any section of our websites, send email to the appropriate maintainer. To report problems in:

- Upcoming Events (i.e. the calendar), send email to calendar@nesfa.org
- Latest News, send email to newsworthy@nesfa.org
- NESFA Press, or anything else (including all links in the Menus and other areas), send email to webmaster@nesfa.org

SOCIAL MEDIA (SHARON SBARSKY):

We maintain Facebook, Meetup, NESFA Calendar, and Google Calendar.

HOTEL COMMITTEE REPORT (GAY ELLEN DENNETT):

We are in the last year of our hotel contract. We need to investigate our options for future years ASAP.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE REPORT (MIKE KERPAN):

We've done much work on the library over the last year. Cataloging has kicked back into high gear and we've now cataloged the entire general fiction collection and are working on special collections (Anthologies, Non-fiction, etc) currently. As part of this process, paper checkout has been ~~burned~~ phased out and all materials must now be checked out through Koha. Additionally, we've reorganized the Flynn Room to make room for a Young Readers collection, as well as room for decrunching the anthologies, non-fiction, graphic novel, art books, and videos. Despite our efforts, space is still tight and we will need to engage in some mix of further shelf-building and curation of the main collection in order to avoid going back to having books piled up on top of each other again.

Rick suggests that when cataloging, we pay attention to things like introductions and other explanatory essays. Sharon points out that even having different covers and titles isn't enough to guarantee that it's not a dupe. Several other folks chime in with ideas.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (SHARON SBARSKY):

It's not too late to fill out a form if you haven't done so yet. We do have a slate of officers, however:

President: Rick Kovalcik

Vice-President: Sharon Sbarsky and maybe Dave C., Tony, Gay Ellen

Treasurer: Ann Broomhead

Clerk: Mike K, maybe Jan Dumas

MAIL ROOM REPORT (DAVE CANTOR):

This month, I corrected our contact information that the USPS has. Currently, I am the main contact at the Framingham post office, and at long last, they have spelled my name correctly. The post office has my private contact information including my mailing address and telephone number.

I connected our online account to our PO box (or vice versa). Our online account is registered as Joe Nesfan, with email address clerk@nesfa.org. Rick Kovalcik and I have the username and password for the online account. If you need access, see one of us.

I signed us up for automatic renewal of our PO Box, and it will be billed to one of our debit cards annually on or about May 15, starting this year.

The prepaid postage due account that I established is working well: When picking up the mail, we no longer have to wait at the counter to receive items which arrived with postage due. These items (mostly bounced IMs, but occasionally other things) are left in our box and the fees deducted from the account.

It is also possible to arrange for certified items to be delivered to the box rather than waiting at the counter. I have decided that the terms of the agreement to do that are too onerous to allow that, though.

We get much junk mail, and most of that gets delivered to the big public waste basket at the post office.

One person among us had reverted to using the incorrect ZIP+4 code 01701-0203 as a return address for us. This is incorrect, and resulted from a typo in IM shortly after the PO box was established. The people at the post office say it's better to use the (correct) ZIP+4 designation 01701-0809 rather than using just the 5-digit ZIP 01701, but we should advise our correspondents not to use -0203. We continue to receive mail addressed to us incorrectly at -0203, but that is due to the good customer service of post office employees. It is within their purview to return such mail as "cannot be delivered as addressed." It would be good if this did not happen.

So, please, if you send mail, please make sure that you do not use the incorrect -0203 in the return address or give it out in any other way.

PROCUREMENT REPORT (DAVE ANDERSON):

It's ramped up a bit over the last year but still mostly paper towels and toilet paper. We have also recently gotten more paper plates and utensils. People have been donating soda and water.

AWARDS:

Fellowship Award (Joe Ross): We did it last year.

Gaughan Award (Sharon Sbarsky):

We awarded the Gaughan Award last year. At least two of the judges feel they want to step down this year. We are looking for two or three judges for the next year.

Short Story Contest (Dave Grubbs for Steven Lee): Details were in the Boskone Debrief. 36 stories submitted.

Skyllark Award (Tony Lewis): B60 was presented one year late at B61 to John Scalzi. B61's winners were Ellen Kushner and Delia Sherman and the award was presented at the con.

CLUBHOUSE AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES (WEDNESDAY NIGHTS, READING, WRITING, OTHER):

They continue.

GAMING COMMITTEE REPORT (STEPHANIE SHIELDS):

I'd like to have at least one in-person meeting at the Clubhouse. I've inventoried our games and figured out which ones are ours and which belong to various members. The makers of Terra Mystica are sending us replacement pieces for the ones that were lost by Arisia.

MEDIA COORDINATOR REPORT (MIKE KERPAN):

We've run a full calendar of media events this year on Saturday nights. We're running two regular media nights per month on the first and third Saturday of each month, as well as Doctor Who Nights on the second Saturday, and (resuming in June) Animation Nights on the last Saturday. Our normal movie nights are currently focused on this year's Hugo BDP finalists, but we'll switch back to our normal mix of programming in July.

NESFA PICNIC (GAY ELLEN DENNETT):

We have the usual venue at Larz Anderson Park on Monday, 2 September, from 3 to 7 PM. If there are any food allergies, etc., please let Gay Ellen know.

MCFI LIAISON (RICK KOVALCIK): MCFI still exists. No other report at this time.

WORLDCON LIAISON (SHARON SBARSKY):

Upcoming Worldcons & NASFiC and bids

2024:

NASFiC: Buffalo NASFiC 2024, July 18-21, 2024, <https://buffalonasfic2024.org/>

Worldcon: Glasgow 2024, August 8-12, 2024, <https://glasgow2024.org/>

Hugo Finalists have been released. <https://glasgow2024.org/hugo-awards/2024-hugo-award-finalists/>

Ballots are open, and close Saturday, 20 July 2024, 20:17 GMT.

Membership Rates through 30th June, 2024 at <https://glasgow2024.org/for-members/memberships-and-tickets/>

2025:

Worldcon: Seattle Worldcon 2025, August 13-17, 2025, <https://seattlein2025.org/>

Membership rates at <https://seattlein2025.org/memberships/>

Only filed Worldcon bid for 2026:

2026 Worldcon Bid: LA in 2026, August 27-31, 2026, Anaheim, CA, USA, <https://lain2026.org/>

<https://www.worldcon.org/worldcon-bids/> for more details including Questionnaires from Smofcon, if available.

2027 Worldcon bid: Montreal in 2027, <https://bid.montreal2027.ca/>

posted on discord: "We are bidding for a return of Worldcon to Montreal after 18 years. We have confirmed our facility and will be running Labour Day (Sept 2-6, 2027) at the Palais des Congrès"

2027 Worldcon Bid: Tel Aviv 2027, Israel (location and dates TBD), <https://worldcon.sf-f.org.il/>

2028 Worldcon Bid: Kampala, Uganda

2029 Worldcon Bid: Dublin, Ireland

2031 Worldcon Bid: Texas, USA

SILENT AND SILLY COMMITTEES:

Silence. The clerk is being silly again.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS (QUORUM FOR AN ELECTION: 11 OR 40% OF 27):

President (Sharon took over running the meeting at this time)

Rick Kovalcik nominated himself.

Motion to close nominations (Dave Anderson; Gay Ellen Dennett) passes by unanimous consent. Hearing no objection, Rick is elected by acclamation.

Vice President (Rick took over running the meeting at this time)

Sharon nominated herself

Dave Cantor nominated himself.

Tony Lewis and Gay Ellen Dennett withdrew.

Motion to close nominations (Dave Grubbs; Gay Ellen Dennett) Hearing no objection it passes by unanimous consent.

Meeting paused at 3:35 and resumed at 3:47

Judy arrives and retracts her proxy; Now we wait for Adoodle to give us some results.

Sharon 16, Dave C. 6 Absention 1

Treasurer

Ann Broomhead has nominated herself. Motion to close nominations (Grubbs, Anderson) No objections. Voting Closed by Unanimous consent. Hearing no objections, Ann is elected by acclamation.

Clerk

Mike Kerpan has nominated himself.

Motion to close nominations (Seibert, Sbarsky) passes by unanimous consent.

Hearing no objection, Mike Kerpan is elected by acclamation.

Motion to thank the officers for their continued service by Tim S (second Dave A, Gloria). **Motion passes by unanimous consent.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Motion (Seibert) to establish new pun fines based on the honor system. Pun fines are to be self-assessed based on how good (bad) the pun is and are in effect for all NESFA events, not just business meetings. Pun fines are to be paid in cash to the pun fine jar either in advance or in arrears.

Kristin says that we make some very bad puns and should be ashamed (proud) and put our money where our mouths are.

Dave A wonders if pun fines have outlived their utility. Kristin says that puns are alive and well at work sessions. Tim S says that he's in favor of anything that will get us money.

Passes 15 to 5.

NEW BUSINESS:

Moved (Outreach Committee) that there be TWO primary membership classes General and Voting. General Membership will be \$24 per year. Anyone may join as a General Member. Everyone currently a Subscribing Member will be transferred to General Membership. Inactive, Family Dependent, Affiliate, Honorary, etc. are unchanged. The Rules Committee is instructed to report back with the necessary Bylaws and Standing Rule changes by the July / August meeting.

Kristin says that the current system causes confusion and that we should simplify things. Dave C says that the current system has served us well and we shouldn't change it. RKov speaks in favor. Tim S says that he thinks we're best served by making less friction for people who want to get involved. Lis says that this is a good idea and we need to change rather than clinging to tradition for the sake of tradition. Gloria says that we should do this and that we need to adapt to present conditions. Sharon says that when she first got involved back in the 80s, the system was already a point of friction, but says that most people HAVE been able to figure things out even if some don't. Also, she suggests that we grandfather anybody who had already pre-paid at the subscribing rate until their pre-paid periods end. Dave A says that the context we operate in has changed and that at this point the benefit of streamlining outweighs any downsides. RKOV rules as president that if we do this, people will be grandfathered in. Dave G. says that new members would be better off focusing on what they can do for the club than on the privileges available to each membership class. Stephanie says that simplifying is good. Rick also mentions that at the next meeting, there will be a motion to set new dues, with the same dues for all classes.

Passes 19-2

Moved (Outreach) to allow the Eboard to rent space in the NESFA Clubhouse to groups, including setting the amount of rental after consultation with the membership before and after the first rental. Political groups would normally be excluded; all other community organizations are normally welcome.

Dave A says that this is basically a good idea but we need to be careful not to lock ourselves into committing too often space that we might need. Kristin says that if we do this, it will more than pay for itself. Tony wonders about parking and what Somerville might think. Dave C is worried that we may lock ourselves out the ability to do impromptu work sessions and committee meetings if we do too much. Rick says that a good initial goal would be one or two nights per week and that we should leave this up to the eboard and that his personal preference would be to only rent out one room at a time and that we might want to consider moving things around to make working in the Blue Room easier when the main room is in use. Geri Sullivan says we should consider trial periods. Stephanie asks if we've looked at getting visitor parking permits and volunteers to be a keyholder if needed. Gay Ellen wonders if we can make enough money in rental fees to pay for wear and tear and also says that we need written agreements with groups in order to cover our rears and that she has some stuff from her town that we might be able to crib from. Paula wonders what we do when we need extra space in the run up to the cons. Rick says that other local businesses have tried to get parking permits and come up empty. Gloria supports this. Suford generally supports this but has reservations. Kristin points out that these groups have a track record of behaving responsibly in their current space.

Passes 17 to 1.

Floor Proposal

The floor in the main room of the clubhouse is in very bad shape. While we could replace some or all of the tiles, they will likely crack again. What is more important is that, with the Democracy Center in Harvard Square closing for renovations for an unknown period of time, it seems we have the opportunity to make our space available to some community groups (for a fee). This would both bring

in some revenue and expose more people to NESFA and Boskone. It was impressive how many people have stopped by in the last two weeks as we had the doors open and windows uncovered for cleaning, as well as during Somerville Open Studios. Many of these people did not know about NESFA, and some of them joined as new NESFA members.

Two of the groups that are very interested in renting our space are dance groups. We have talked to three carpenters or ex-carpenters, all of whom agree the floor can support dancing (and more bookcases) but needs work. Two of these people came via one of the Dance Groups and are very interested in working with us (including at a discounted rate). We also believe there is an opportunity for fundraising from the dance community and elsewhere. Without really trying, we have pledges for three \$1000 donations from different people.

Currently, the clubhouse stands empty on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Even \$100/night weekly rental income for three of those days will give us over \$15k per year which is much needed income basically completely for free. But getting that much means we are even more in need of a floor in the main room that isn't a safety hazard.

The idea would be to pack up all the books in the main room and store them in boxes on pallets on the cement floor down below. The bookcases would go in the Flynn room and the computer equipment in the blue room. The flooring and subfloor would be removed and the joists leveled (most probably by sistering new joists to the existing joists). Then there would be a new subfloor and new floor (probably strip linoleum - similar to the tiles we have now but in bigger strips).

The estimated time the contractors will be working and the clubhouse will be unavailable should only be several days to a couple of weeks.

Now is the time to act. Therefore, we **move to approve up to \$15k for floor repair in the main room, of which at least \$5k will come from donations. The estimate we got is actually for \$9k to \$14k, but we want to err on the side of caution. Exact details are to be worked out with the Clubhouse and Outreach Committees with final approval by the Eboard.**

Besides the \$3k in pledges already and the expectation for more fundraising, it should be pointed out that B61 appears to have made about \$10k, which is why we think we can afford this now. And hopefully, fundraising will raise more than \$5k, and the project will not cost \$15k.

Mike K wonders what we do if we raise more money than we need, Kristin says that we don't know what we'd do if we raise extra money. but that we really want to do this while there's interest and that people are willing to give us money. Dave C says that this is only about 20 years late. Gloria thinks that we should start a building fund for the overage. Stephanie thinks that the bathroom might be a good place for extra money. Gay Ellen asks if we have enough money to cover things if this uncovers foundation issues and wonders if this will require us to get into ADA compliance. Rick says that shouldn't be an issue as this comes nowhere near being 25% of the value of the clubhouse and also that this would de facto create a clubhouse fund. Joe Ross speaks in favor and says that we need to take care of the building we have because finding a new one is difficult. Dave A points out that we've had multiple clubhouse funds in the past and that they've never come to much. Paula says that we should come up with a real budget for clubhouse operations and maintenance, as well as a list of priorities. Mary O wonders if we need a permit for this and also says that this may find some surprises. Dave C points out that this is different from other clubhouse funds because this is for clubhouse repair, not replacement.

Motion passes unanimously. (19-0)

Move (RKOV, Kerpan) to repeal the motion fixing the Anime Nights to the last Saturday of the month. **Motion passes unanimously (18-0)**

Stephanie asks how to schedule a one-off special gaming event involving a murder mystery. Rick says to email the membership with details

TIMES AND PLACES OF FUTURE EVENTS: See In Times To Come.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Kristin asks for cataloging volunteers so that we can aim to finish it before the July 28 meeting. It's fun and we usually have food.

NETWORKING REQUESTS (WHO NEEDS TO TALK TO WHOM AFTER THE MEETING IN BREAKOUT ROOMS)

Motion to adjourn at 17:50. It is seconded by too many people to count and passes with joy.

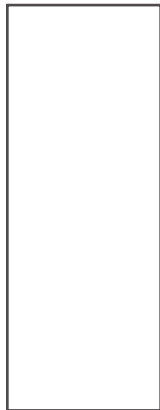
The Official NESFA Glossary

- B99 • Boskone 99
- CH • Clubhouse
- CotBH • Committee of the Black Hole (a humorous term for Committee of the Whole)
- CotW • Committee of the Whole
- EBoard • NESFA Executive board (President, VP, Treasurer, Clerk)
- FN • Fellow of NESFA
- GED • Gay Ellen Dennett
- IM*** • *Instant Message* (this publication)
- MCFI • Massachusetts Convention Fandom, Inc.
- MCP(U) • Motion from committee passed (unanimously)
 - MF • Motion failed
 - MP • Motion passed
 - MPH • Motion passed and Hartered
 - MPU • Motion passed unanimously
 - MSP • Motion seconded and passed
 - MSPH • Motion seconded, passed, and Hartered
 - MSPU • Motion seconded and passed unanimously
 - OM • Other Meeting
 - PSSC • Publishers' Storage
 - Raz • Michael Rasnick
 - RKov • Rick Kovalcik
 - UC • Unanimous Consent

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May 22, 2024

Instant Message #1008

Last Page

In Times To Come

(See www.nesfa.org/events for the full schedule)

May 24-27 • Balticon 58 in Baltimore, MD
May 26 noon-10pm • **Game Day**. Mask optional. At clubhouse
Jun 1 6 pm-10:30 pm • **Hugo BDP Viewing**
Jun 2 noon-10pm • **Game Day**. Mask optional. At clubhouse
Jun 2 2 pm - 8 pm • **Other Meeting** at Tim & Ann's.
email info@nesfa.org for more information.
Jun 7 7-10pm • **NESFA Reading Group** via Zoom
Book: *The Spare Man* by Mary Robinette Kowal
Jun 8 7 pm to whatever • **Doctor Who Nigh**
Jun 9 noon-whenver • **Boskone Meeting** (Noon) and **NESFA Business Meeting** (no earlier than 2PM)
Jun 15 6 pm-10:30 pm • **Hugo BDP Viewing**
Jun 16 noon-10pm • **Game Day**. Mask optional. At clubhouse
Jun 23 noon-10pm • **Game Day**. Mask optional. At clubhouse
Jun 29 6 pm to whenever • **Anime and Animation Night**. At clubhouse.
Jun 30 noon-10pm • **Game Day**. Mask optional. At clubhouse
Jul 5 7-10pm • **NESFA Reading Group** via Zoom
Book: *Critical Mass* by Daniel Suarez
Jul 6 6 pm-10:30 pm • **Hugo BDP Viewing**
Jul 11-14 • Readercon 33 Marriott Boston Quincy in Quincy, MA
Jul 18-21 • Buffalo NASFiC 2024 in Buffalo, NY

Pay your dues by PayPal. Use paypal@nesfa.org

Jul 20 20:17 GMT (4:17 PM EDT) • Hugo Award Voting Deadline
Jul 28 noon-whenver • **Boskone Meeting** (Noon) and **NESFA Business Meeting** (no earlier than 2PM)
Aug 8-12 • Glasgow 2024 Worldcon in Glasgow, Scotland
Sep 2 • NESFA Picnic at The Shelter (a covered area with grills and tables) at Larz Anderson Park in Brookline, MA
Sep 13-15 • Albacon in Clifton Park, NY
Sep 27-29 • Capclave24 in Rockville, MD
Oct 4-6 • MCFI Relaxacon in Dennisport, MA
Nov 22-24 • Philcon 2024 in Cherry Hill, NJ
Dec 6-8 • SMOFcon 41 in Seattle, WA
Feb 14-16, 2025 • Boskone 62 at the Westin Boston Seaport District, Boston, MA
Aug 13-17, 2025 • Seattle Worldcon 2025 in Seattle, WA