

**NJLA Sustainability & Resiliency Section Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 4, 2023 via Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85642375613?pwd=dHMwNGR0bDUvQklic0xxZiVKZUJMQT09>

**Present:** Larissa Brookes (Ridgewood), Lauren Antolino (Cranford), Marissa Lieberman (Cranford), Mary Catherine Sudiak (Cranford), Lisa O'Shaughnessy (Summit), Michael Maziekien (State Library), Debra (Edison), Michele Stricker (State Library), Lizzie (Lake Hiawatha Branch, Parsippany)

Meeting called to order by Larissa at 2:01 pm

Introductions of Executive Board Members

**New Business:**

- Discussion and overview of draft by-laws. Vote planned for June 8.
  - We have officers but we do not have voted-on by-laws. Our next meeting is on June 8, over 30 days notice, to have a by-laws voting meeting. also have a new Gmail for the section. By-laws are similar to other sections, establishing President, VP, and 2 members at large.
  - Once we vote on by-laws, we have to demonstrate viability and activity for 2 years to be permanent section within NJLA
  - Michele noted via comment that she is here as a liaison from the State Library and will be abstaining from voting.
  
- Larissa discussed requirements for becoming an official section
  - Including: 15 members, by-laws, 2 meetings per year, meetings recorded and uploaded to section drive along with by-laws. Communicate regularly with membership, and sponsor at least 2 specialized meetings or speakers every year (including at conference, which we currently have scheduled).
  - Mary will be moderating a panel with the keynote at the conference; Larissa will also be a part of a panel on Repair Cafes.
  - Section will plan to meet after those panels.

- Larissa asked: what will the Sustainability Section be? What do we want to do? We should be involved with every section, in a way. Opened up to the group:
  - Michele mentioned our keynote is a big name in sustainability. Recommended after the keynote to talk to the attendees as they leave to share flyers, information, or QR code on flyer with a link to join our section while they're excited and thinking about it.
  - Lauren mentioned highlighting the work that libraries are doing in the newsletter.
  - Mary mentioned she wrote an article for the PR NJLA newsletter highlighting some things going on within the state. We could work on getting a more comprehensive list of who is doing what and where. What activities are people interested in?
  - Lizzie from Lake Hiawatha, Parsippany is interested in sustainability and conservation. Brought up prize swap idea to bring to conference, to re-use prizes. Brainstorm potential other passive programs to bring to conference.
  - Debra, Assistant Director at Edison Library, mentioned how so many people are attached to hard copies of things.
  - Michael from NJ State Library is interested because the State Library should be responsive and reactive to changes in climate affecting communities. Also planning ahead for changes in NJ and to see how libraries can rise to the challenge.
  - We talked about setting up a social media page for the section. We do not have a memberlinks dropdown page yet but it has been shared with NJLA leadership. Michael shared there are guidelines about setting up social media for NJLA sections.
    - Do we want/need to do this?
  - Michele talked about the 1 year membership we have in Sustainable Libraries, and that there is a focus on smaller libraries and what smaller steps libraries can do, broken down, to be more sustainable and take more sustainable initiatives. There are some micro certifications. We can send out some of the information to the libraries about what they could do to be part of the initiative.
  - Larissa added that their website is clear and easy to follow; there is also an app.
  - Michele talked about preparation, like preparing for the winter season. Can be done to help be visible to the NJLA community and keeping up our momentum. Michele mentioned she can help send things out. On Nov 8, there will be a summit with all states, NJ - Maine, open to all public libraries for discussion on sustainability on library facilities. We can put our logo on it and send it out through our membership.

-Michele offered to put our name, along with the State Library, on initiatives through the State Library as co-sponsors to help with visibility.

-Larissa added about wanting to make a logo. Discussed possibility of seasonal newsletter. Debra added that she thinks it would be nice to go with tips for a season. An example could be how to better conserve energy in the winter. This would also keep us in people's minds. Seasonal micro-certification event to tie in, possibly.

-Lauren mentioned a database of presenters on topics with sustainability as a resource. Could be linked on our website, as well as program ideas with a focus on NJ.

-Lauren offered to share her speaker list for native plants.

-Larissa mentioned a resource list of sustainability-focused grants.

- Larissa will look into getting a QR Code, seasonal newsletter, and database set up.
- Next meeting, we will be voting on by-laws on June 8 at 2pm. Zoom link will be sent out.
- Meeting adjourned 2:35pm

Submitted by  
Marissa Lieberman  
Secretary