

Environmental & Energy Law Section  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
May 19, 2021

In Attendance: Please see Attached Attendance List

**Approval of October 22, 2020 Executive Committee Minutes**

- Motion to approve by W. Mugdan, seconded by G. Port
- Minutes approved with no objection.

**Treasurers Report** (J. Rigano)

- Report on 2020 income (approx. \$48,000) and expenses (approx. \$8,500) to date
- Section still has a surplus of approx. \$63,000.

**Membership Status & Initiatives** (M. Hecker)

- Issue with NYSBA renewal process for 2021. If not renewed by April 1, 2021, then members automatically dropped. Triggered need for Section outreach to dropped members, which N. Ward-Willis has drafted. Still waiting for list of specific members that have been dropped.
- 746 members as of April 2021. Hoping numbers will increase once dropped members receive targeted outreach.
- Numbers lower than normal, likely due to pandemic as well as NYSBA automatic dropping.
- Still trending heavy with older attorneys.
- Committee actively working to increase membership.
  - Pushing law student numbers with recent law school panel, outreach to law professors and better/earlier advertising to law students.
- Discussed other membership initiatives including targeting energy attorneys.

**Fall Meeting** (L. Shaw)

- NYSBA policy for in-person meetings in packet.
- Cabinet has preliminarily voted to have fall meeting in-person at the Statler Hotel in Ithaca.
- Discussed logistics and possible coordination Municipal Law Section and the need to make financial commitments soon.
- Will look for people to register early to determine interest levels.
- Target dates of October 22-24<sup>th</sup>.
- Agenda still fluid so ideas can be sent to L. Shaw.

**Climate Change Blog** (C. Howard)

- Update given, including outreach to all other NYSBA sections to determine their interest in receiving the Blog. Now, there are 18 NYSBA Sections receiving the Blog.
- A new blog entry forthcoming. Lots of options for material given Biden Administration.
- Discussed possibility of broadening distribution of Blog (e.g., ABA, other states' bar associations).

### **Green Amendment** (K. Kuh)

- Update given on Green Amendment to State Constitution and upcoming vote this Fall.
- Encouraged discussing Green Amendment with others to garner support.
- Available as a resource to get the word out for the Green Amendment.
- June 9<sup>th</sup> Facebook live presentation. Details to follow in Section message board..
- Section previously supported Green Amendment. Discussed history with NYSBA Executive Committee. Section no longer allowed to support given NYSBA rule on not supporting/opposing ballot initiatives.

### **Reorganization of Cabinet and Officers** (N. Ward-Willis)

- Discussed proposal to reorganize Cabinet and officers, including creation of Budget Officer and removal of Treasurer position and positions of First and Second Vice-Chair and Secretary as well as proposed assignment of responsibilities. See P. 29 of Meeting Materials. Position of Chair would remain the same under the proposal.
- Would require amendment of Section's By-Laws. Then needs to be submitted to NYSBA for vote on June 11, 2021.
- Will circulate for vote next week.
- Conceptual support expressed.

### **2021 Essay Contest** (M. Villani)

- Now waiting for essays to be submitted.
- Discussed advertising contest – using social media – and desire to continue and expand advertising efforts. Goal to get younger members involved.

### **Newsletter/Social Media/Webpage** (M. Villani/N. Ward-Willis)

- Thanks to Miriam on her historic efforts with newsletter.
- Discussed manner in which Newsletter is distributed.
  - Motion to distribute Newsletter electronically only (subject to “opt-out” if permitted by NYSBA) by M. Villani; seconded by R. Nichols. Motion passed without objection.

### **Diversity and Inclusion** (S. Lobe)

- Update on 2021 Fellowship given.
- Committee considering other initiatives, likely to partner with other committees, other CLE topics and group mentoring.
- Looking to develop best practices for Section members.

### **House of Delegates Update** (A. Kendall)

- Current focus on CPLR rules.
- Discussed Bar Center Lease at 1 Elk Street. PowerPoint provided to discuss issue, option of moving and pros and cons of staying versus moving.
- Meeting schedule for May 22, 2021 to discuss although unclear if there will be a vote taken.

- Solicited feedback from Executive Committee; general consensus to support recommendation to move.
- Direction given to A. Kendall on Section's position to not renew lease and look for more suitable location.

#### **Social Media** (R. Parington/D. Gamils)

- Increasing numbers every day.
- 315 Twitter followers (up from 252 in October 2020).
- Looking to expand content and social media takeovers.
- Be sure to like and share posts.
- To discuss recruiting law students to grow social media presence.

#### **Upcoming Events** (N. Ward-Willis)

- Overview of upcoming events given:
  - Meet the Officers, June 1, 2021
  - Key Issues in USEPA Region 2, June 23-24, 2021
  - Oil Spill Program

#### **Miscellaneous**

- Discussed NYSBA Governmental Affairs Policy Discussion, including difficulties that have been experienced and Section's concerns. A topic to be the subject of discussion into next year. Brownfield example explained.
- Will look for a vote by email for Committee reorganization but if there is a need for discussion, then will move vote to Fall Meeting.
- Thank you to N. Ward-Willis for his tenure as Chair.
- Motion to adjourn by L. Shaw, seconded by V. Robbins. Motion adopted without objection.

PARTICIPANTS BY ZOOM/CONFERENCE CALL  
May 19, 2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Nick Ward Willis  
Linda Shaw  
James P. Rigano  
Yvonne Hennessey  
Amy Jasiewicz  
Simone Smith  
Susan Amron  
Martin Baker  
Kathleen Bennett  
Michael Bogin  
Catherine Buckley  
Gregory Brown  
Catherine Buckley  
Hayley Carlock  
Peter Casper  
Jerry Cavaluzzi  
Philip Dixon  
Bridget Donlon  
David Freeman  
Drew Gamils  
John Greenthal  
Kevin Healy  
Carl Howard  
Michael Hecker  
Amy Kendall  
Jan Klubik  
Alan Knauf  
Dan Kranin  
Katrina Kuh  
Christine Leas  
Richard Leland  
Sarah Lobe  
Margaret McDonald  
Walter Mugdan  
Rosemary Nicols  
John Parker  
Rachel Parington  
Frank Piccininni  
Gail Port  
Telisport Pusavage

David Quist  
Virginia Robbins  
Nicholas Robinson  
Steve Russo  
Michelle Schroeder  
Larry Schnapf  
Jay Simpson  
Matthew Sinkman  
Adam Stolorow  
Howard Tollin  
Melissa Vale  
Miriam Villani  
Cheryl Vollweiler  
Mindy Zoghlin