

SEEDS Annual Membership Meeting
September 29, 2021
Quorum established

Vote to approve minutes of 2020 Annual Meeting (Approved)

Treasurer's Report

COVID-19 Pandemic impacted fundraising activities:

- End-of-Year Campaign: \$15,000 (down slightly from previous year)
- Swapalooza canceled (typically raises \$4,000)
- Raise-the-Rent online auction raised 3 months rent

Despite the challenges SEEDS continues to grow:

- \$3,542.00 SBA Paycheck Protection Program Round 2
- \$2,500 PPL sustaining grant
- \$2,000 Honesdale National Bank Foundation grant

Investment Circle established for a \$10,000 donation to maintain scholarship in memory of Michael (Jake) Burkhardt

2021 budget \$43,314.00

- Expenses are primarily payroll and rent
- Providing maternity leave with partial payment to Executive Director
- Hired parttime Outreach Assistant

Bank Balance on September 3, 2021: \$44,660

Election of Officers & Board Members (Approved)

Nancy DeYoung, Treasurer
Kayleigh Cornell, Secretary
Jocelyn Cramer, Board Member at Large

Circle Reports

Governance Circle (David Ford, Jack Barnett, Sue Currier, Kathy Dodge):

This Circle made significant progress this year, strengthening the governance framework for the organization, hiring a new staff member, and addressing strategic plan items.

- Conducted annual review of SEEDS' strategic plan.
- Documented SEEDS' performance management process for SEEDS paid staff.
- Posted updated bylaws to SEEDS' website & SharePoint site.

- Completed a review of our sociocracy documentation.
- Facilitated the hiring of SEEDS' 2nd paid staff member (Outreach assistant).
- Worked with SEEDS' Executive Director on coverage plans for her maternity leave.
- Identified candidates for open Board positions for elections at SEEDS' 2021 Annual Membership Meeting.
- Filled our Treasurer position.
- Completed updates to SEEDS' State filings for name & address changes.
- Worked on collecting & securing SEEDS' critical organization documents.

Food Circle (Jack Barnett, Jane Bollinger, Jenna Mauder, Kim Emmet):

In 2021, this Circle launched Today's Main Ingredient, a weekly, 15-minute podcast that focused on a locally-grown ingredient (usually a vegetable) and featuring conversations with a local farmer; a local chef, caterer, food entrepreneur, or other "foodie"; and a nutritionist highlighting its health benefits. Weekly recipes for the featured ingredient were also posted. The podcast was hosted by former radio broadcaster Mikki Uzupes.

Posted at seedsgroup.net and todaysmainingredient.org, the podcast also aired on two Honesdale radio stations Sunday mornings. From May 16 to just before Thanksgiving, 26 episodes were produced. Weekly posts on social media promoted all episodes: creation of a stand-alone Facebook page with over 120 follows to date. Over 200-episode downloads on the Podbean podcast platform.

The podcast's goals were to:

- Encourage consumers to purchase, prepare & eat locally grown food,
- Support & promote local farmers who sell at farmers' markets, on-farm stores & farm markets, and through CSAs (Consumer Supported Agriculture subscriptions),
- Support & promote local restaurateurs, caterers, & food entrepreneurs who buy & serve food from local farms, and
- Inform home cooks about the ingredient's role in a healthy diet.
- During Farmers' Market Week in August, Food Circle member Jane Bollinger did a live cooking demonstration and provided recipes for vegetables available for sale at the market that week.

The podcast was made possible by grants from The Greater Pike Community Foundation, The Wayne/Pike Farm Bureau, and The Overlook Estate Foundation.

Outreach Circle (Chuck SanClementi, Erin SanClementi, Shannon Cilento, Sue Currier):

In 2021, this Circle focused on expanding SEEDS visibility and communication with the public.

- Produced newsletters with more local stories on sustainable energy and actionable steps members can take for sustainable energy progress.
- Expanded and enhanced social media postings @SEEDSofNEPA (Facebook & Instagram) and on YouTube (SEEDS of NEPA).
- Promoted the podcast "Today's Main Ingredient" using all platforms.
- Updated the new website to include [a new Membership page](#)

Energy Circle (Kathy Dodge, Pete Snyder, Jim Sanders, Larry Reeger, Jack Barnett, Jamie Stunkard, David Falvo, Daniel Berg, Chuck Heyn, Jocelyn Cramer, Olga Trushina):

This Circle:

- Presented an Energy 101 Program at Hemlock Farms community in Pike County,
- Trained 5 new members for the assessment-team (energy assessments to homes and non-profits),
- Conducted 2 home and 1 nonprofit efficiency assessments,
- Did 11 solar assessments to homes and non-profits & updated two past assessments with new financial information, and
- Provided expertise and about 11 SEEDS volunteers to help install 346 panels (138.26 kW) at 2 arrays at the Highlights Foundation.

Education Circle (Jamie Reeger, Jenna Mauder, Sandy Long, Jocelyn Cramer):

This Circle:

- Maintained NEPA Recycles, the online resource for identifying recycling opportunities in our region (www.neparecycles.com)
- SEEDS Reads: A community-wide reading initiative of volunteer reads, Little Free Libraries, & a book club. And SEEDS Reads Art donated some limited-edition prints to SEEDS for fundraising.
- Free Book Swap: Reuse/recycle event aimed at keeping books out of landfills (In 2021 almost 30,000 books were donated with 17,000 books “re-homed” and about 6,000 pounds of books recycled. Fifty volunteers helped.

Finance Circle (Sue Currier, Nancy DeYoung, Allaina Propst, Olga Trushina):

This Circle continues its work to grow and maintain the financial wellbeing of SEEDS, meeting monthly. Its chair, Sue Currier, meets weekly with staff to discuss finances and fundraising work.

Energy Co-op: (Jack Barnett)

The 8-year-old Energy Coop, which was spun off from SEEDS to be its own entity, currently has 131 members (one of them SEEDS itself) and has completed four projects. In words of co-op board member David Pursch: “It’s like an investment club that focuses on LOCAL sustainable energy projects and has been paying about what U.S. 10-year treasury bonds pay.”

The 2021 winner of the Jack Burkhardt scholarship was Jacob Mohring.

Executive Director report:

Currently on maternity leave, Olga Trushina, SEEDS third executive director (as of early 2020) and ambassador in the community, directed day-to-day operations in 2021 and led an expanded online presence including videos to enhance our educational efforts during Covid. Kathy introduced Ludmila Trushina, born August 5, probably our youngest SEEDS

member, joining two sisters: Vasya 8, and Bozena 11. Before Olga took her leave, we were able to hire an outreach specialist, Shannon Cilento.

Introduction of Shannon Cilento

Shannon joined the staff June 2021 as a part-time Outreach Assistant to help carry on day-to-day work during Olga's absence and to help free Olga to pursue more grant funding and other objectives when Olga returns.

Since June, Shannon has worked to:

- Expand digital outreach by posting engaging content on digital media about living more sustainably and to promote SEEDS' values thru education,
- Grow FB & Instagram to increase engagement and reach, and
- Organize SEEDS Reads programs

Shannon also works full time as the Resources and Land-Use Specialist at the Upper Delaware Council in Narrowsburg, NY. Originally from Mexico, NY, Shannon earned her Bachelor's degrees in Anthropology and International Studies with a minor in Museum Studies (Art History concentration) from the State University of New York at Oswego in 2015. She received her Master's degree in Historic Preservation Planning in 2017 at Cornell University. Shannon lives in Rock Hill, NY where she also serves on the Town of Thompson Planning Board, is a member of the Rotary Club of Monticello, and is on the Board of Directors for the Sullivan County Chamber Foundation.

Presentation by Earth to Sky Project [You can view the full E2S presentation at the end of the SEEDS business meeting at this link: [SEEDS Annual Meeting Presentation.pptx](#)]