NEERS Business Meeting minutes (Spring 2020 NEERS meeting, June 5, 2020, ‘virtual’ Salem, MA meeting)

* Minutes of last meeting approved
* President’s Report (Susan Adamowicz)
  + Sue is still President for 4 months, and then Brett Branco (president-Elect) will take over (after the Fall meeting banquet)
  + At the Fall (Block Island) meeting there will be an election for President-Elect (6 years total), and for Treasurer (4 years total). Please talk to Sue or another board member if you have interest in running.
  + At the Executive Committee, the NEERS board agreed to send out a statement that we support the Justice and Equity Statement put out by CERF.
  + Although we had hoped to have an in-person get-together at Salem State this summer, we have reluctantly realized that it can’t happen due to COVID uncertainty
* Treasurer (Courtney Schmidt)
  + Because this is a brief meeting, Courtney did not provide detailed numbers, but said that we are doing well (York Harbor meeting went well) and have been able to sustain the student endowment through donations. These funds support several awards:
    - Lottery-based
      * Stuck Boot – for anyone needing assistance to help them attend NEERS
      * Early Career – when you aren’t a student anymore, but aren’t yet financially secure
    - Student awards – see our web site for details
  + If you have any interest in the Treasurer position, please contact Courtney and she will be glad to talk to you
  + Virtual Salem meeting
    - This meeting was put together in 2-3 weeks – first as only a few talks, then a full symposium, then a full NEERS meeting
    - We have had 140 registrants, comparable to previous in-person meetings; peak attendance Thursday was 84, peak attendance Friday was 94
* Secretary (Peg Pelletier)
  + This is our first virtual meeting – please stay tuned for a detailed survey to help us understand what worked and what could be improved on.
* Past President report (Sara Grady)
  + An Honorary Membership and Award will be given to Fred Short on Saturday at the Awards Ceremony
  + If you want to nominate someone for an honorary membership, please submit a nomination paragraph to Sara
* Newsletter (Sara Grady)
  + We haven’t had one in a while – we need content. Sara is supposed to be the editor, not the content provider
  + At the last meeting, Veronica suggested that some content from the GSO newsletter be condensed for NEERS consumption
* New Business
  + October 2020 Block Island meeting
    - While the organizing committee was hoping to meet in person, they are not feeling very optimistic. Luckily no deposits have been paid.
    - This may also be a virtual meeting
  + Virtual meetings
    - Sandy MacFarlane asked for a list of participants as it was hard to know who was attending the sessions
    - Jamie Vaudrey said that there is a blog function on our website that we might be able to use as a chat
    - Tay Evans said that the social hours, opening coffee and other events were designed to allow people to socialize with each other
    - Courtney Schmidt said that they figured out Zoom with the webinar add-on in about a week, so there may be other features that are possible that we can figure out before the next meeting

Awardees (after business meeting):

Stratification Award Courtney Schmidt

Stratification Award Tay Evans

Honorary Award Fred Short

Rankin Award Andrew Robinson (UNE)

Ketchem Award Anna Puchkoff (UConn)