

**Minutes of the
New England Prep School Track Association Annual Meeting**
7 p.m. Wednesday, March 29, 2023
Remote via Zoom

Contact Information

NEPSTA Board

President: Tom O’Riordan (toriordan@landmarkschool.org)

Vice President: Tracy Garcia-LaVigne (tlavigne@cbury.org)

Treasurer: Beth Larson (larsonb@avonoldfarms.com)

Secretary: Becky Purdy (becky_purdy@loomis.org)

Upcoming Meetings

Fall Board Meeting: *tentatively* Sunday, September 24, via Zoom, time TBD

Annual Spring Meeting: March 2024. Date, time, and location TBD

Attendance

Those present:

Matt Biggart, Canterbury; George Briggs, Rocky Hill; Kevin Brooks, St. Paul's; Jeff Browne, Thayer; Karen Bryant, St. Mark's; Phil Caspar; Glen Collelo, Greens Farms; Chris Coscio, Harvey School; Diana Davis, Exeter; David DiCicco, Marianapolis; Michael Doubleday, Williston; Dory Driscoll, Berkshire; Erin Dromgoole, Roxbury Latin; Jane Finch, Greenwich Academy; Tracy Garcia-LaVigne, Canterbury; Nate Gartner: Tom Gillen, Proctor; Fritz Goodman, Kingswood Oxford; Hilary Hall, Exeter; Adam Harder, Belmont Hill; Bradley Harkins, Austin Prep; Annie Hughes, St. Andrew’s-RI; Stirling Ince, Cushing; Dwight Jackson, Brunswick; RJ Jenkins, Kents Hill; Anna Johnson, Covenant Christian; Michael Jones, Thayer; Paul Karasch, Rivers; Jeff Kelly, Governors; Keri Lambert, Andover; Beth Larson, Avon Old Farms; Zach Maizel, Marvelwood; Mike McCabe, Berkshire; Stephen McCabe, Taft; Jim McDougal, Trinity-Pawling; McKinley: Nick Micheletti, Portsmouth Abbey; Nessa Molloy: Brandon Newbould, Exeter; Tom O’Riordan, Landmark; Charlie O’Rourke, BB&N; Joseph Pelletier: Chris Pelliccia, Williston; Steve Polikoff, Brunswick; Becky Purdy, Loomis Chaffee; Scott Purdy, Loomis Chaffee; Al Reiff, Taft; Nicolle Renick, Austin Prep; Dave Ring, Pomfret; Paul Rupprecht, Charles River School/NEPSAC liaison; Nate Seidenberg, Hotchkiss; Justin Siekierski: Steve Klots South Kent; Nicole Sly: Harrison Soebroto, St. Paul’s; Artis Street, Boston Trinity; Steve Suomi, Governors; Paul Swaim, Pingree; Avi Thomas, King School; Danielle Vartabedian, Willbraham & Monson; Jon Waldron, Concord; Ellyn Wilkinson, Wooster; Pierre Yoo, Hotchkiss; Jaclyn, Greenwich Country Day

The meeting began at 7:05 p.m.

1. Treasurer’s Report

Beth Larson reported on some changes to awards for NEPSTA championships:

- Medals will go to the top 6 finishers in each event (instead of top 3 receiving medals and 4-6 receiving ribbons)
- The New England Prep School Athletic Association (NEPSAC) wants us to change from

team plaques to the NEPSAC trophy awarded in other sports. NEPSTA has tried to push back with the argument that the plaques are a tradition in NEPSTA track & field and cross country, that member schools do not want this change, and that trophies take up scarce shelf space in athletics facilities. NEPSAC has said it is changing to trophies for all sports next year anyway.

- NEPSAC also has directed NEPSTA to award All-NEPSAC awards and Honorable Mentions to individuals. NEPSAC has suggested following the swimming & diving model, where the top 3 finishers in each event are All-NEPSAC and the next 7 finishers are Honorable Mentions. Beth suggested, based on that model, we could name the top 6 finishers in each event at All-NEPSAC and 7th and 8th places in each event as Honorable Mentions.

There was discussion of these changes. There was consensus that this organization wanted to continue to award plaques to top teams in T&F and XC. There also was consensus to award All-NEPSAC to the top 6 finishers in each event at the championship meet and Honorable Mentions to the 7th- and 8th-place finishers. This would apply to each division.

Beth will email championship meet hosts a PDF image of the certificates for 1st place and can send them for more places if the hosts prefer.

2. Dues and Athlete Rosters

All dues must be paid by April 15 via NEPSAC at this [link](#).

Rosters must be submitted to NEPSTA Meet Directors by April 15.

3. NEPSTA Leadership

President Tom O’Riordan’s two-year term is coming to an end, and while the practice has usually been for the vice president to move to president, Vice President Tracy Garcia-LaVigne is unable to continue on the board. The floor was opened for nominations for both president and vice president.

Christian Coscio (Harvey School) and Matt Biggart (Canterbury School) were nominated.

Voting will take place toward the end of the meeting.

4. Track & Field 2023 Championships Sites (Saturday 5/20)

Div. I: Andover, contact - Keri Lambert - klambert@andover.edu

Div. II: Williston Northampton

Meet Director - Dory Driscoll, Berkshire School dorydriscoll@berkshireschool.org

Div. III: Marianapolis volunteered to host.

5. Reminders to Track & Field meet directors:

- Send out Track & Field registration info by April 1
- Collect 4/15 rosters from all schools in division
- Flat rate entry fees: D1 (\$225), D2 (\$200), D3 (\$175).
- A school entering a Boys and a Girls team pays double the flat fee
- Submit All-NEPSAC Teams, Honorable Mentions, and Most Valuable Athletes to Laurie Sachs (laurie.sachs@rivers.org)

6. Reminders to Track & Field Coaches:

- Teams must submit their T&F rosters to their Meet Director by April 15.
- Entry Fees (see amounts in previous agenda item) are due by **May 1**. Payment online via the NEPSAC website is preferred, at this [link](#). If you pay by check, make checks out to NEPSTA and mail to:
Beth Larson
Avon Old Farms School
500 Old Farms Rd.
Avon, CT 06001

7. Recap 2022 XC Championships, Saturday, November 12, 2022

- Div. I: St. Paul's
Harrison Soebroto reported that all went well. It was great to have notes from Andover from the previous year.
- Div. II: St. Mark's
Karen Bryant reported that the meet went smoothly despite bad weather shortly before. They had a hard time getting additional trainers and had to enlist nurses and a physician's assistant instead.
- Div. III: Canterbury w/ KO Co-Host
Tracy Garcia-LaVigne said Granite State timing was outstanding. She also said the T-shirt company did a very good job. Fritz Goodman noted that Canterbury does excellent work setting up the course, the medical tent, etc. He said the only problem was that it was hard for schools to pay their meet fees via the NEPSAC website, especially on the day of the meet.
- Div. IV: Marvelwood
Zach Maizel reported that the lead-up to hosting was a lot of work, but it was great to host and helpful to have notes from previous years.
- All-Star Meet at St. Mark's
Meet director Charlie O'Rourke reported that everything went well. He thanked St. Mark's and Karen Bryant for hosting every year.

Tom O'Riordan encouraged members who know of trainers, starters, and officials to share their names and contact information with others in NEPSTA.

Meet hosts also should be sure to consult the NEPSTA XC Meet Directors Handbook, which contains loads of useful information, a timeline for preparation, and examples of correspondence and other planning documents from previous hosts. The handbook is available online at this [link](#).

8. XC Hosts for 2023

Div. I: Loomis

Div. II:

Div. III: Wheeler host w/ Greens Farms (Glen Collelo)

Div. IV: Marvelwood has offered to host again

All-Star: St. Mark's - Charlie O'Rourke

The Division I hosting rotation is still going. Tom encouraged other divisions to discuss rotations for the next few years when they meet in breakout sessions.

9. Division Meetings

Track & Field

- Discussion of upcoming championships
- **Div. III - Site Needed**
- Review and confirm championship hosts 2023
- All divisions - name three division representatives, including at least 1 each from track and XC. These reps serve on the NEPSTA Executive Committee, which transacts NEPSTA business necessary between full meetings, serves as a grievance committee to act on any written complaints and petitions received from members, and hears and acts on requests to move down or up in divisional championship events, among other duties.
- Div. III - Vote on Proposed Changes to Qualifying Standards

XC

- Review and confirm championship hosts 2023 & 2024
- D4 - Name three division representatives to the Executive Committee

Following the breakout sessions, the divisions reported back on the appointment of the following division reps:

Div. I

Pierre Yu
Jane Finch
Andrew Bartlett

Div. II

Steve Suomi
Jeff Browne

Div. III

Paul Karasch
Fritz Goodman

Div. IV

Steve Klots

10. Other Business

- Voting was conducted for NEPSTA President and Vice President based on the nominations earlier in the meeting. The membership elected Matt Biggart as president and Christian Coscio at vice president.

- The 50th Canterbury XC Invitational takes place next fall on September 23. Tracy Garcia-LaVigne extended an invitation to all NEPSTA schools.
- Members thanked Tom and Tracy for their leadership of the organization for the last two years, especially through the transition back from Covid.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Purdy
NEPSTA Secretary, on behalf of the NEPSTA board