

FieldNotes...

Affiliated with the
National Society of
Professional Surveyors

The Monthly Newsletter of the **Maine Society of Land Surveyors**

Volume 32 Number 2

February, 2025

Maine Society of Land Surveyors
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Inside This Issue

February ExCom Minutes
Page 2

**MSLS Annual Conference
Awards Conferred**
Page 8 & 9

**MSLS Annual General
Membership Meeting Minutes**
Page 10

**GIS Liaison Report
from Greg Copeland**
Page 12

**Calendar Notes
“The Parting Shot”**
Page 13

From the President



Dear MSLS Members,

I am both honored and excited to introduce myself as the new President of the Maine Society of Land Surveyors (MSLS). It is truly a privilege to serve in this role, and I am eager to work with all of you to continue the Society's mission of supporting land surveying professionals across Maine.

Having been a part of the surveying community for 15 years, I understand the challenges we face and the value of a strong, collaborative network. As President, my goal is to foster communication, enhance professional development, and advocate for the vital role land surveyors play in our communities as well as the value of our profession. Surveying is not only a profession: it's a way of life. We get to solve problems, explore the outdoors, and use cutting-edge technology. However, I am concerned about the future of our profession. Our demographic is aging, and young surveyors are few and far between. MSLS is our best tool to make changes, but it will take all of us working together to raise awareness, recruit new talent, and invigorate our members to participate. I look forward to continuing the great work that MSLS has done over the years and helping guide the Society toward an even more successful future.

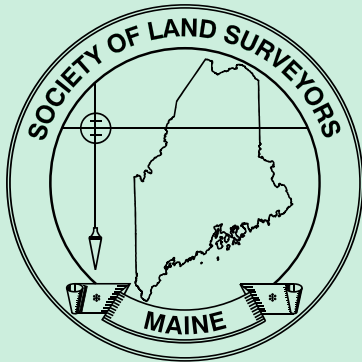
I encourage all members to reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or ideas for how we can improve our profession and better serve our community. Together, we can make an impact that can shape a brighter future for our profession and those who follow in our footsteps.

Thank you for your trust and support. I look forward to working alongside each of you and seeing all that we can accomplish. Please reach out at any time to share your ideas.

All the Best,
Levi Ladd, PLS, CFS, GISP
President, Maine Society of Land Surveyors

MSLS Contact Information

Levi Ladd, President	416-5644
Jonathan Stewart, Vice President	947-0019
Kevin Farrar, Secretary	215-6340
Jimmy Courbron, Treasurer	200-1678
Ellen Brewer, Director At Large	767-0821
Judd Vear, Director At Large	(603) 305-5735
Keith Morse, Androscoggin	754-5937
Spencer Caron, Crown of Maine	532-7313
Karl Olson, MidCoast	882-7008
Wayne Wood, Narragansett	657-3330
Rich Vannozi, Penobscot	(617) 429-7036
Stephen Gould, Somerset	474-6223
Matt Ek, NSPS Director	831-9470
Cassandra Quintal, Immediate Past Pres.	577-5840
Daniel Bernier, Esq., Legislative Monitor	877-8969
Bruce Bourgoine, Executive Director	882-5200
	director@msls.org



Legislative Committee
(Jonathan Stewart - Chair & Daniel Bernier, Esq.)

Nominating & Membership Committee
(Cassandra Quintal - Chair)

Budget & Finance Committee (Jimmy Courbron)

Board of Licensure (Jonathan Stewart - Liaison)

NSPS (Matt Ek, NSPS Director)

SVT at UM (Stephen Gould - Liaison)

GIS (Greg Copeland - Liaison)

FEMA (Mark Carpenter - Liaison)

DOT (Guy Ladd - Liaison)

Education Committee - (Cassandra Quintal - Chair)

Scholarship Committee
(John Lloyd & Stephen Gould - Co-Chairs)

Historical Committee - (Tom Blake - Chair)

Benevolent & Betterment Benevolent Fund Com't
(Matt Ek - Chair)

Program Committee
(Steve Gould & John Lloyd Co-Chairs)

Publications, FieldNotes and Website
(Bruce Bourgoine)

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Governor's Restaurant – Waterville, ME
February 20, 2025

Members Present

Officers -	
President	Levi Ladd
Vice President	Jon Stewart
Secretary	Kevin Farrar
Treasurer	Jimmy Courbron
Directors -	
Narragansett	Wayne Wood
MidCoast	Karl Olson (Zoom)
Somerset	Steve Gould
Crown of Maine	Spencer Caron (Zoom)
At Large	Judd Vear
At large	Ellen Brewer (Zoom)
Past President	Cassandra Quintal (Zoom)
NSPS Director	Matt Ek (Zoom)
Executive Director	Bruce Bourgoine

The meeting was called to order by President Ladd at 6:02. With no agenda changes the meeting proceeded.

Legislative Committee (Jon Stewart) – No report other than Dan's list of pending legislation that he is monitoring which is emailed to members regularly. If you are not receiving them, contact MSLS director, Bruce Bourgoine to make sure he has your email address. The following bills which can be researched at the following web address are included on the emailed list. <http://www.mainelegislature.org/LawMakerWeb/search.asp> Once at that web address, add the LD# and hit search.

LD 1 – “An Act to Increase Storm Preparedness for Maine’s Communities, Homes and Infrastructure” was assigned to the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee. A workshop is scheduled for February 27th.

LD 36 – “An Act to Clarify Processes of the Board of Environmental Protection” was assigned to the Environmental and Natural Resources Committee. A public hearing was held on January 27th. It has received an “ought to pass as amended” recommendation.

LD 39 – “An Act to Require Forest Landowners to Report the Registration or Sale of Their Forest Carbon Credits” was assigned to the Agricultural, Conservation and Forestry Committee. A public hearing was held on January 28th. It has received an “ought to pass as amended” recommendation.

LD 65 – “An Act to Update the Definition of ‘Coastal Wetlands’ Under the Natural Resources Protection Act” was assigned to the Environmental and Natural Resources Committee. A public hearing was held on January 27th. It has received an “ought to pass as amended” recommendation.

LD 75 – “An Act to Update Funding for the Board of Environmental Protection” was assigned to the Environmental and Natural Resources Committee. A public hearing was held on January 27th. It has received an “ought to pass” recommendation.

LD 121 – “An Act to Include Brush and Yard Debris in the Definition of Litter” was assigned to the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. A public hearing was held on February 3rd. It has received an “ought to pass as amended” recommendation.

LD 128 – “An Act to Support Permitting of Certain Multifamily Housing Developments Under the Site Location of Development Laws” was assigned to the Housing and Economic Development Committee. No hearings have been scheduled.

LD 161 – “Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Convene a Stakeholder Group Tasked with a Comprehensive Overhaul and Modernization of the State Subdivision Laws” was assigned to the Housing and Economic Development Committee. A public hearing is scheduled for February 27th.

LD 353 – “Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Recommend Methods for Preventing Deed Fraud in the State of Maine” was assigned to the Judiciary Committee. A public hearing was held on February 12th.

LD 358 – “An Act to Increase the Fees Paid to Registers of Deeds” was assigned to the State and Local Government Committee. A public hearing is scheduled for February 24th.

LD 383 – “An Act to Facilitate the Consolidation of the Department of Environmental Protection and the Maine Land Use Planning Commission into a Single Combined Entity” was assigned to the Housing and Economic Development Committee.

LD 398 – “An Act to Amend the Definition of ‘Transient Occupancy’ in the Laws Governing the Maine Land Use Planning Commission” was assigned to the Housing and Economic Development Committee.

LD 413 – “An Act Regarding Disclosure by Sellers of Residential Real Property of Notices of Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Violations” was assigned to the Housing and Economic Development Committee. A public hearing is scheduled for February 27th.

LD 530 – “An Act Regarding Occupational Licensing Reform” was assigned to the Labor Committee.

Secretary Report (Kevin Farrar) – The minutes from the January 7th ExCom meeting held at Main-Land Development Company in Livermore Falls were accepted as printed. Motion to accept was made by Wayne Wood, seconded by Jimmy Courbron, approved unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report (Jimmy Courbron) – Jimmy reports that there is \$51,603.48 in the Checking Account. The scholarship fund currently contains \$243,706.54, a loss of about \$1648 over the last reported amount. There is \$8080.05 in the Bereavement and Betterment Fund, which includes funds from the items auctioned at the MSLS banquet. Jimmy had the officers sign some paperwork relative to the MSLS checking account. Moved to accept the Treasurers Report by Wayne Wood, seconded by Keith Morse, approved unanimously.

Executive Dir. Report (Bruce Bourgoine) – Bruce said that he noticed that processing and sending MSLS dues renewal notices is a whole lot easier through the new the website. He prepared a profit/loss breakdown for the MSLS Annual Meeting. In total, the society took in \$55,080 and had \$49,270 in expenditures (host site, banquet, speakers, etc.). The net profit was \$5,810, so the society was able to meet its target of \$5000 profit. This profit margin helps keeps the budget balanced and dues as low as possible. Bruce’s written report is below.

*From: Bruce Bourgoine, Executive Director
Regarding: January 2025 Report
Date: February 16, 2025*

Here are the items focused upon during January:

- *Dues monitoring and communication with earlier payments activity through notices MemberClicks invoicing and reminder process.*
- *Significant focus on Program Committee assistance continued with speaker support, venue coordination, exhibitor and conferee registration, individual promotion and registration, invitee communication, finalizing resources, and onsite support throughout the event*
- *Routine matters of ExCom meeting preparation, deposits, broadcast e-mails, website updates, FieldNotes publication, and handling external and member communications as required. Financial focus on providing the Treasurer with budgetary considerations and obtaining PCI compliance for our new credit card processing*

Looking ahead, the following item will be of intermediate focus:

- *Supporting as logistics & coordination resource the Spring Meeting Chapter Host.*

Looking ahead, the following items will be of long-term focus:

- *Encouraging/educating members to use their MemberClicks interface resources.*
- *Launching new web-based member-only and Committee web services over time.*

As always, I appreciate your support in meeting Society goals.

Nominating & Membership Committee (Cassandra Quintal) – No report at meeting. Below is the monthly report on membership numbers.

February 2025 Report

<i>Member type</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>+/-</i>
<i>Associate</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>-1</i>
<i>Complimentary</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Honorary</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>+1</i>
<i>Life</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>+1</i>
<i>Life Charter</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>-1</i>
<i>Out of State</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>+2</i>
<i>Out of State Charter</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Regular</i>	<i>166</i>	<i>169</i>	<i>+3</i>
<i>Retired</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>+1</i>
<i>Student</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Sustaining</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>0</i>
	<i>-----</i>	<i>-----</i>	
	<i>286</i>	<i>291</i>	<i>+5</i>



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Education Committee – Cassandra Quintal has been appointed as chair of this committee.

Scholarship Committee (John Lloyd & Steve Gould) – No report.

Benevolent & Betterment Fund Committee (Matt Ek) – Matt said that the fund now has over \$8000 in it thanks to the MSLS Annual meeting auction funds.

Historical Committee (Tom Blake) – No report.

Program Committee (Steve Gould & John Lloyd – MSLS Annual Meeting) – Steve said that there has been mostly positive feedback on the annual meeting. Judd asked if we were at or close to capacity for that venue (The Regency). Bruce said that we were very close to capacity on for the professional presentations on Thursday.

Pending General Membership Meeting Planning (MSLS Spring Meeting) – Spencer said that he still needs to speak with Kip and the chapter to set the date and get a topic. The idea of switching the Androscoggin Chapter from fall to spring was brought up. Keith said the chapter would discuss this at their next meeting.

LIAISONS –

Board of Licensure (Levi Ladd) – No meeting since the last report. The next meeting will be February 25th at 9am at the State office building at 76 Northern Avenue in Gardiner. There are 5 complaints on the agenda.

NSPS (Matt Ek, Director) – As reported in last month's minutes, the next national conference is March 17th to March 21st and will be held in Silver Spring, MD (a suburb of DC). Matt says he plans to drive down. He is planning to meet Maine's senators and congressional representatives on the 18th.

SVT at UMaine (Rich Vannozi) – No report.

Central Maine Community College (Cassandra Quintal) – The workforce development program is 100% federally funded and they are fairly certain that the program will be cut.

GIS (Greg Copeland) – No report.

FEMA (Mark Carpenter) – No report

MDOT (Guy Ladd) – No report.

Registries (Kevin Sargent) – No report.

Chapter Reports –

Androscoggin Chapter (Keith Morse) – Next meeting will feature, Robert Rogers who will be discussing abandoned railroads on March 27th.

Narraganset Chapter (Wayne Wood) – Next meeting will be during the third week in March and will feature Guy Ladd from MDOT speaking. The meeting will be at Dick Eaton's office.

Crown of Maine (Spencer Caron) – Spencer said that the Chapter is working with the New Brunswick chapter to coordinate the completion of an ice carousel in the St John River along the international boundary between Van Buren, ME and St. Leonard, NB. The event will take place March 14-16th.

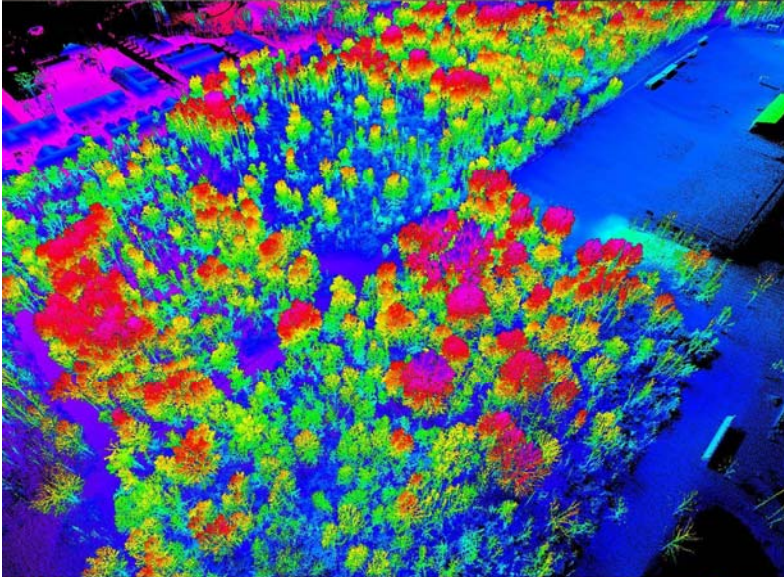
MidCoast Chapter (Karl Olson) – Chapter met on Feb 14th at Moody's. The topic was 'determining the upland edge of a coastal wetland'. There was no real consensus. Some jurisdictions use highest annual tide, some use highest astronomical tide.

Penobscot/Hancock Chapter (Rich V) – V.P. Jon Stewart said that the chapter will meet next Thursday at the Sea Dog in Bangor.

Somerset Chapter (Steve Gould) – No meeting. No report.

Unfinished Business –

Online voting (Jimmy Courbron) – MSLS will need to change the bylaws to allow for online voting. Steve suggested that we look at NSPS bylaws to see what those say about online voting. Judd and Jimmy found the section of the NSPS bylaws about online voting. It was a short paragraph reading as follows: *Vote by Ballot. In lieu of obtaining the vote of members at a regular or special meeting, the Board of Directors may submit any matter to the Voting Members for approval by ballot. An official ballot shall be delivered by the U.S. Postal Service and/or electronically through a secure internet website or voting service to each Voting Member. Only returned ballots postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or electronically cast prior to the voting deadline shall be counted. Except as otherwise required by law, the Articles of Incorporation of NSPS, or these Bylaws, the affirmative vote*



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of a majority of the Voting Members voting by ballot shall be the act of the members. ExCom decided to table this to look up more info on wording. The goal is to come up with wording to be voted on at the MSLS Spring meeting.

New Business –

- Annual Meeting Preliminary Evaluation – Bruce said that he will do one survey for attendees and a second one for non-attendees. Levi said that he heard mixed reviews. There were a few comments about the stairs (meeting was on two levels) and the banquet/Friday lunch space (being in a different building). There were also positive comments about the location being in the heart of the Old Port and the speakers being very good. Matt Ek mentioned that there will be ALTA changed that NSPS plans to adopt in February of '26, so it may be good to have Gary Kent as a speaker for that.
- Annual Meeting Location 2026 – Levi suggested we delay this item until we get the results of the membership survey.
- Host Chapter Rotation – MSLS will be at the end of the Chapter rotation list at the end of 2025. Bruce included a list of host chapters for MSLS general membership meetings from 2020 to 2025. As of now, unless they switch, as previously discussed, the Crown of Maine is the host chapter for the MSLS Spring meeting and Androscoggin is the host chapter for the MSLS Fall meeting.
- National Surveyors Week – short discussion about trying to do something (letter to the editor, proclamation) and past efforts. Nothing determined.
- Chapters discussion – Levi asked around the room for an estimate of active members per chapter. Most were in the 8-10 range. Somerset is low with about 4. Levi asked about whether chapters could have their own webpage on the new MSLS website. Bruce said that it wouldn't be a problem at all to do that. There was a discussion about sparsely represented areas of the state (Washington County/Downeast, Oxford County and York County. York is different than the Oxford and Washington because there are many surveyors in York County. Wayne talked about past efforts of the Narragansett Chapter to have meetings in York County and not drawing surveyors from there. The idea of trying to place an MSLS general membership meeting in York County was bounced around. Nothing determined.
- Next ExCom meeting – March 20th at Governor's in Waterville.
- Jimmy Courbron moved to have MSLS send in lieu of flowers a donation of \$120 to each individuals chosen charity for two long time MSLS members who recently passed away (Richard Salisbury and Owen Haskell). Seconded by Wayne Wood. The motion passed unanimously. Ellen added that Owen's family is working to setup a scholarship at UMaine in Owen's name. There was a discussion about the "final point" disk program that NSPS has. Mat said that there are no "final points" registered with NSPS in Maine. Keith said that George Bouchles set a marker at Dick Bastow's grave. It was decided to reach out the Haskell and Salisbury families to see if they would like a "final point" marker set. For more information on the NSPS "Final Point" program, go to Final Point - National Society of Professional Surveyors
- Correspondence – Cassandra said that she received an email from Joey Chessie of the Association of New Brunswick Land Surveyors with some questions about how the MSLS scholarship fund (Vanguard account) is setup and what the job description for the Executive Director is. Jimmy said that he would address the Vanguard part of that question and Bruce said that he'd send him a copy of his contract which includes his job description.

Consent Agenda -

<i>From Whom</i>	<i>January 7, 2025</i>	<i>MSLS Committee</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Bruce Bourgoine</i>		<i>Executive Dir. Expenses ~ January</i>	<i>\$886.77</i>
<i>Bruce Bourgoine</i>		<i>Executive Dir. Services ~ January</i>	<i>\$4,725.00</i>
<i>Lincoln County Publishing</i>		<i>FieldNotes</i>	<i>\$91.87</i>
<i>Vanguard</i>		<i>MSLS auction proceed transfer</i>	<i>\$700.00</i>
<i>MEREDA</i>		<i>2025 Non-profit membership</i>	<i>\$300.00</i>
<i>Levi Ladd</i>		<i>MSLS expenses/hospitality</i>	<i>\$123.65</i>
<i>Cassandra Quintal</i>		<i>NYSAPLS meeting expenses</i>	<i>\$1040.57</i>
<i>Governor's Restaurant</i>		<i>Room rental</i>	<i>\$125.00</i>
<i>NSPS</i>		<i>165 members</i>	<i>\$8,250.00</i>
Total			
Additions at meeting –			
Grand Total			\$16,242.86

It was moved to accept the consent agenda by Matt Ek, seconded by Wayne Wood and passed unanimously.

Levi asked if anyone was free to attend the upcoming MALSCE meeting in Foxborough as a representative of MSLS. Levi planned to attend, but no longer can.



Moved to adjourn at 7:35pm, by Wayne Wood seconded and passed unanimously.
 Respectfully Submitted
DRAFT
 Kevin Farrar – MSLS

2025 President's Award

Tara Mullen

In appreciation for her dedication to educating others in service to our profession's future.



2025 Surveyor of the Year

Stephen Gould

For long enduring service to our Society, the University of Maine, and our profession with his steady guidance.



Steve is our first double recipient, having been honored in 2003.

Life Membership

John Schwanda

For his decades of dedication to the future of our profession as a mentor and our long serving TrigStar coordinator.





Thomas Berry, Jack Morrissey, William Clifton, Owen Tull
MSLS 2025 Scholarship Awardees



Thank you **Cassandra Quintal** for two great years of Presidential Leadership.



Welcoming **Daniel Martin**, NGS as an MSLS Honorary Member.



The National Geodetic Survey awarded **Nancy Willey** of Cherryfield a Partner Award by remote ceremony since she was unable to join us.



MSLS 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes

January 30, 2025

Officers Present:	President	Cassandra Quintal
	Vice President	Levi Ladd
	Secretary	Kevin Farrar
	Treasurer	Jimmy Courbron

Also in attendance were some chapter directors, committee chairs and MSLS members. Total attendance is about 30 people.

Meeting was called to order at 1:04 by President Quintal. She recognized Past Presidents and Life Members in attendance.

Secretary's Report (Kevin Farrar) – The minutes from the 2024 MSLS Fall Business Meeting, held on October 25th at the UMaine Alumni Center in Orono are on pages 7-8 in the meeting book. It was moved by Wayne Wood to accept the Secretary's Report as printed, seconded by Matt Ek and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (Jimmy Courbron) – As of January 29th there is \$90,363.05 in the Checking Account (soon to be \$40,000 due to Conference expenses). There is \$2,654.94 in the Benevolence & Betterment Fund Savings Account, and \$249,150.41 in the Vanguard Scholarship Fund Account (soon to be about \$241,500 after scholarship award distributions). The Vanguard Account had a rate of return of 14.8% over the last twelve months (about \$37,000).

It was moved to accept the report by Wayne Wood, seconded by Spencer Caron and passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report (Bruce Bourgoine) – Bruce mentioned the new MSLS website and its use for registration for this meeting. He asked for comments on the meeting site (The Regency) and questions on the new MSLS website.

STANDING COMMITTEE & LIASON REPORTS

Nominating & Membership Committee (Donald Dostie) – Don said that ballots have been counted and the tellers committee will report the results at the banquet.

Education Committee (Deborah Briggs) – No report.

Scholarship Committee (John Lloyd & Steve Gould) – At January's ExCom meeting the committee reported that they had only 4 applicants. They recommended to ExCom that MSLS make awards of \$1250, \$1750, \$1750 and \$2750, at total of \$7500 for the 4 applicants. That recommendation was approved by ExCom and those awards will be granted at tonight's banquet.

Benevolent & Betterment Fund Committee (Matt Ek) – The auction tonight will be funding the B&B fund. President Quintal added that the scholarship fund is self-sustaining at this point and we are working to build our betterment fund. Shep Sheppard asked about the amount being given (\$7500) to 4 students this year and thought we should be awarding more money. One member mentioned that he felt a 4% withdrawal each year would keep the scholarship fund self-sustaining. President Quintal, Jimmy Courbron and Matt Ek talked about the constraints of the scholarship fund (students from Maine / full time students), the quality and quantity of the applicants being a consideration and how the current rules for this fund don't allow us to use it to help non-traditional students. Rich Vannozzi said that he didn't feel that the annual amount being given by MSLS was out of line, adding that most if not all of his students are receiving other scholarships.

A member mentioned that one use of our B&B fund could be used to pay for things to help the non-traditional students (individual class tuition, CST exam fees, etc.).

Historical Committee (Tom Blake) – No report

Program Committee (Steve Gould & John Lloyd) – Steve asked for future meeting speaker suggestions. Cassandra said that she discovered at the NY society meeting that NSPS is putting together a speaker list for affiliates to use for speakers/topics.

Board of Licensure – As previously reported in FieldNotes, the last meeting was held on December 17th. There were 4 complaint presentations on the agenda. Two were dismissed with letters of guidance. One was dismissed due to lack of evidence of a violation. The last one was tabled due to a lack of a quorum when one board member recused themselves. The next meeting is scheduled for February 25th.

NSPS (Matt Ek) – Tim Burch of NSPS is here and will speak tomorrow. Matt will be going to DC for the Spring business meeting and hopes to meet with Maine's 4 congressional reps. Matt also mentioned an effort by NSPS to get people retiring from the military into surveying.

MDOT – none

GIS – Greg Copeland – The Maine Geolibrary board has three openings. One rep has to come from the Utility sector, two

have to come from the municipality sector. Greg will be transitioning from the municipality sector to the development sector. They are moving to a different method of scheduling flights for images. Greg submitted a report prior to the meeting that didn't make it into the meeting book. That report will be printed in FieldNotes.

SVT at UMaine (Rich Vannozzi) – Rich said that the university got approval for a new faculty member. They are advertising now.

Student Chapter – No report.

CMCC (Cassandra Quintal) – The fall class had about 40 students in the building technology program. The workforce development program will start up in April. Cass is also running a CST exam prep program through the school that will start in April.

FEMA (Marc Carpenter) – Sue's Baker letter is on page 11. That letter announced the Governor's appointment of Samantha Horn to lead the Maine Office of Community Affairs. That is a new "stand alone" office will "provide coordinated and efficient planning, technical assistance and financial support to towns, cities, tribal governments and regional entities, which will help them better plan for common challenges, pursue solutions and create stronger, more resilient communities".

TrigStar (John Schwanda) – John Chagnon of Haley Ward (Portsmouth NH) has offered to take John's place as Trig-Star Coordinator. John Schwanda has written a guide (meeting book pages 12-13) on how to run a Trig-Star program at your local high school. John has a trig Star teacher in Wells who would like to continue the program

CHAPTER REPORTS

Androscoggin Chapter (Keith Morse) – Kieth mentioned that topics of meetings over the last year. The next meeting will be in March. Robert Rogers will come speak on abandonment of railroads.

Crown of Maine (Spencer Caron) – Spencer reports that there will be an ice carousel on the international boundary with New Brunswick on March 14-17. You can search "Northern Maine Ice Busters" to get to a website with more information. Cass mentioned that Mike Cyr's son just got licensed in New Brunswick.

Hancock/Penobscot – The next meeting is set for Feb 13th at 6pm at the SeaDog in Bangor

MidCoast Chapter (Karl Olson) – Currently meeting monthly on Fridays for breakfast at Moody's

Narragansett Chapter (Wayne Wood) – This report, on page 14 of the program book outlines the 4 meetings that the chapter held. The officers for 2025 are President – Richard Eaton; Vice President – Matthew Ek; Treasurer – Camille Alden; Secretary – Mark Carpenter; ExCom Director – Wayne Wood. The next meeting date, place and topic has yet to be determined.

Somerset Chapter (Steve Gould) – No meeting, no report.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business –

2024 MSLS Budget – The proposed 2025 budget is on page 9 of the meeting book. Jimmy said that we have a net zero budget. He said he noticed a couple of line items that were obscured when the meeting book was produced. Moved to accept by Wayne Wood, seconded and passed with none opposed.

The business meeting was recessed until tonight's banquet.

At the banquet President Quintal presented the "**President's Award**" to **Tara Mullen**. Tara has worked to advance the profession of surveying, published a Maine Specific PLS exam study guide and teaching at CMCC and MSLS seminars. Pres. Quintal then made introductions and gave some "outgoing President" remarks.

Secretary Farrar announced the winners of the MSLS plan contest:

Topographic – "Cherry Lane Portland Water District Property" submitted by **Jediah Scott** of Sebago Technics.

Boundary – "Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust" submitted by **John Schwanda** of Owen Haskell. This plan was also voted by attendees to be the winner of the "**Moses Greenleaf, Best in Show**" award.

Land Title Survey – "Caribou Solar" submitted by **Spencer Caron** of Northern Maine Surveyors.

Steve Gould made scholarship awards to **Thomas Berry** (\$1500), **Bill Clifton** (\$2750), **Jack Morrissey** (\$1250) and **Owen Tull** (\$1750).

Don Dostie announced the election results. There were 80 ballots. With 79 votes Judd Veer was elected to be Director-at-Large, Jimmy Courbron received 78 votes for Treasurer, Kevin Farrar received 80 votes for Secretary Jon Stewart received 80 votes for Vice President and Levi Ladd received 77 votes for President.

Tim Burch, representing NSPS, recited the pledge and installed the newly elected officers.

Levi Ladd took to the podium to give his incoming remarks. One of the main goals he has is to put the profession of surveying in front of as many young people as we can.

An honorary **life membership** award was presented to **John Shwanda**.

The "**Surveyor of the Year**" award was presented to **Steve Gould**.

A motion to adjourn the business meeting was seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted - *Kevin Farrar*, MSLS Secretary

GIS Liaison Report

January 25, 2025

The Board of the Maine Library of Geographic Information (Geolibrary) meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 1:00pm. The Geolibrary meets in person quarterly, and all the monthly meetings are accessible through Microsoft Teams. The public is invited to attend and participate.

Currently there are several vacant seats on the Board. There are two seats for municipal stakeholders, one for real estate and development interests and one for utility interests. Members to the Board are spelled out by state statute. One of the seats currently available is my seat, representing municipal interests. That seat expired on January 25, 2025. I have expressed my desire to remain on the Board, but I am also considering retiring from the City of Biddeford in the near future. Retiring will most likely make me ineligible to remain on the in the seat I have been in for the last 3 years. With the help of the Maine Society of Land Surveyors (MSLS) and President Quintel, I have been proposed to the Senate President to be appointed to the seat reserved for a representative of a statewide association representing real estate and/or development interests (MSLS). This would allow me to continue serving on the board.

Nominations for representatives affiliated with a municipality are open. Interested parties may contact their city or town administrator and work with the Maine Municipal Association for a recommendation them. Those seats are recommended, one each, by the current Senate President and Speaker of the House. Anyone looking to fill the public utility seat should contact the Governors office directly, as the Governor makes that appointment. For more information about the Geolibrary go to <https://www.maine.gov/geolib/>. You can also sign up to the Geolibrary's listserv.

Statewide Parcel Mapping

The Geolibrary is looking into creating a statewide parcel data set. Currently, we are working with the Maine Revenue Service (MRS) to map the unorganized territories. The MRS is in the process of bringing Vision Appraisal software online. Once Vision is up and running the parcel mapping will be able to begin.

Imagery

The State of Maine and the Geolibrary are moving away from the traditional aerial photo programs of the past. The State will be contracting with Vexcel Imaging. In the contract with the State, Vexcel will be providing statewide photography on 3-year basis. Each year they will fly a third of the state. Products will include multi-band imagery, near infrared, and color infrared, elevation data with DSM and DTM data, building footprints, and other products. Post disaster products and buy-up options will be available for the State and communities.

Statewide Seamless DEM

The Geolibrary and Maine OGIS are working on this. This may or may not come to fruition in the near future.

3DHP

The State of Maine has agreed with four other New England states to participate in the federal governments 3D Hydrology Program. This would be a cost share program with the federal government. The Geolibrary has the funds, right now, to participate. We were expecting the U.S. Federal Government to announce the program this month, however, with the turnover in our federal government, we may not hear anything for several months. The money is use it or lose it, so we will be looking at possible Plan B's for the funds.

Another issue the State of Maine will have if the federal program goes back on track is we that we will not be able to get the entire state flown. The feds will only fly an entire Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) area. Several HUC's in Maine extend into New Hampshire, the only New England state that is not participating.

Landcover

We are partnering with NOAA and UMaine to develop and release high-resolution landcover data.

Website

The websites, both the Geolibrary's front page and its data sites need upgrades and updates. A working group has recently been formed to take on this issue.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Copeland, PLS GIS Liaison



Calendar Notes...

MSLS March ExCom

March 20 at 6:00 PM

Governors Restaurant in the Capitol Room, Waterville
Zoom access to the meeting will also be available.

Androscoggin Chapter Meeting

March 27 at 5:30 PM

Terradyn Consultants, 95 Main St - Suite 201, Auburn
Robert Rogers will discuss his research project regarding "Fee versus Easement status of Abandoned Railroad rights of way". Please RSVP to Sidney Jackson (see online msls.org calendar listing) as food and drinks will be available.

MSLS Spring Meeting

May 16, 2025

Tentative save the date - details coming in April

**Please send your Calendar Notes for FieldNotes
and our online calendrer to: editor@msls.org**

The Parting Shot...



Regional Leaders gathered at the MSLS Annual Conference included:
Back row followed by front row left to right - Joey Chessie of New Brunswick,
Ryan Fowler of New Hampshire, Gayle Burchard of Vermont, Christopher Juliano
of Connecticut, Timothy Burch of NSPS, Alexandre Beaulieu of Quebec, David Bray
of Rhode Island, Cassandra Quintal and Levi Ladd of Maine

Email your interesting surveying or Maine "Parting Shot" to editor@msls.org!