
**Meeting of the NEPM Board of Directors
Tuesday, September 30, 2025
Public Session Meeting Minutes**

A meeting of the NEPM Board of Directors was held via Zoom on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, Crist Myers, Chair. Those members attending are marked with a “#”.

#Aaron Vega, Vice Chair	#Laura Wright, Vice Chair, Development Chair
#Carlo Centeno, Director	Liza Hernandez-Henson, Director
#Crist Myers, Chair	Liz Roberts, Director, Clerk/Secretary
#Eric Cromwell, Director (via Zoom)	#Marcos Carreras, Director (via Zoom)
#Evie Kintzer, WGBH Director	#Matt Abramovitz, NEPM President
#Heather Hayes, Director (via Zoom)	#Matt Landon, Director, Treasurer
#Jessica Atwood, Director	Melinda Mason, Director
John Armstrong, Director	#Sarah Carlan, Director
John Kennedy, Director (UMASS)	#Sarah Pfatteicher, Director (via Zoom)
#Joy Ohm, Director, NGC Chair	#Xiomara Albán DeLobato, Director

NEPM staff also in attendance:

Vanessa Cerillo, Senior Director, Marketing, Events, Communication; Rebeckah Egan, Director of Corporate Sales; Lynn Page, Managing Director Media Operations; Elizabeth Román, Executive Editor; Chris Schwantner, Chief Engineer Television; Umar Shidukov, News Intern; John Sutton, VP Content & Audience Strategy; Tracy Trial, Senior Development Director; Katie Wright, Director of Audio Production; and Walter Clune, Development Assistant, recorded the minutes.

Crist Myers, Chair convened the meeting at 4:09 p.m.

- Crist called for a motion to approve the June 24, 2025, Public Session minutes [Vote]
 - Jessica Atwood moved, Laura Wright seconded, and none opposed, Joy Ohm and Evie Kintzer abstained.
 - Minutes approved.

President’s Report – Matt Abramovitz, President

Matt shared a Powerpoint presentation on the NEPM strategic framework:

- Public Media New Landscape:
 - No clear path to restore Federal funding. Impact to NEPM is 875k
 - Possible FCC investigations in future
 - Public media has seen a profound transformation
 - CPB winds down operations tomorrow
- Good news:
 - We are now 100% community supported
 - There is broad awareness of our work and our challenges
 - Strong relationships between stations, NPR, PBS, and Congressional and state delegations
- Focus on what is uniquely local:
 - Programming

- Community engagement
- Philanthropy
- Take aways:
 - NEPM is here to stay
 - This is a moment of transformation
 - Your commitment matters more than ever

Marla Zippay was acknowledged for her 37 years of service to WGBY & NEPM as she begins her retirement.

Fall Preview – John Sutton, VP of Content and Audience Strategy

- Shining Starr! – the Starr Studio welcomed hosts Jim Braude and Margery Eagan for their live 2-day broadcast of BPR here at NEPM. BPR was streamed live on YouTube
- Congrats to Tony Dunn and team for making the Starr Studio video-ready to record the Fabulous 413 and The Rundown for YouTube
- The NEPM Newsroom and Media collaborated on making vertical video pieces of the Springfield Puerto Rican Parade and coverage of the Big E
- Upcoming events include Connecting the Commonwealth’s *Unraveling Immunity*, October 13-17; MA Gov. Healy to hold an anti-hunger task force in November moderated by NEPM’s Monte Belmonte; Hunger Awareness Week (11/17-21) with emphasis on the “SNAP Gap”; March for the Food Bank 11/24-25.

Local Engagement – Vanessa Cerillo, Senior Director, Marketing, Events, Communication

- Valley Voices Update – the upcoming season is shifting from NEPM to the Academy of Music coordinating production
- Won’t You Be My Neighbor – a film screening benefit for NEPM on October 24 & 25 by Pothole Pictures in Shelburne Falls
- NEPM Book Club – our next meeting is on October 30 to discuss *The Untended* by Mattea Kramer
- Trivia Night at The Peoples Pint in Greenfield on November 2 as a benefit to NEPM
- First Churches Benefit Concert in Northampton also on November 2 as a benefit to NEPM
- Advanced screening of the first episode of Ken Burns *The American Revolution* at the Northampton Center for the Arts on November 9
- March for the Food Bank on November 24 and 25.

Board Recognition and Appreciation:

Jessica Atwood and Carlo Centeno were thanked for their contributions and years of service on the Board as they term-off service.

Nominating Governance – Slate of Board of Directors

The Board was presented with the Slate of Renewing Board of Directors, Board Officers, Standing Committee Chairs, and Committee Members for review and confirmation. [Vote]

- Carlo Centeno moved the motion to approve, Xiomara Albán DeLobato seconded, none opposed, no abstentions.
- Motion approved.

Next board meetings: December 9

Public Comment: no public comments or questions

Crist adjourned the Public Session at 4:57 p.m.

Submitted by:

Walter Clune, NEPM Development Assistant