

CONSTITUTION/BYLAWS
of the Northeast Section of the American Society of Plant Biologists
(adopted *)**

Article I. Name and Legal Identity

The name of this organization shall be the NORTHEAST SECTION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLANT BIOLOGISTS, hereafter referred to as NEASPB or the Section.

Article II. Purposes

The Section is organized exclusively for scientific and educational purposes and shall remain a non-profit organization. The purposes are: i) to encourage and promote scientific endeavors across diverse disciplines in the field of plant biology that address fundamental questions from a basic and applied perspective; ii) to foster the career development of young researchers; and iii) to promote the welfare and fellowship of plant biologists in the northeast United States (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania).

Article III. Membership

1. Membership is open to all plant biologists and scientists residing in the states of the Northeast listed in Article II or to any person or organization philosophically aligned with the stated purposes of the Section.
2. Membership in the Section consists of its individual members and supporting organizations. Organizations or individuals wishing to support the Section, but not to participate as active voting members, may do so as patrons or sustaining members.
3. Section membership requires payment of annual dues (Set by the Section Executive Committee). New members may join online at any time via the Section's web page. Membership in the Section does not confer membership in the national body, the American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB), hereafter referred to as the Society. Members of ASPB can renew membership in the Section at the time of membership renewal in the Society or by attending the Annual Meeting of the Section.
4. Individual Section members have the following rights: i) to vote in all elections; ii) to be nominated for and to be elected to any office or committee; and iii) *to serve as an official representative of the Northeast Section to the ASPB. The right to serve the Section is subject to such qualifications or requirements as established by the Section executive committee.*
5. No member of the Section shall be entitled to any distributive share of its assets. In the event of dissolution of the Section, its assets remaining after payment of its just debts shall be distributed, as determined by majority vote of the members of the Section, to an organization meeting the conditions prescribed, at the time of dissolution, by Section 501 (C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or any statutory enactment amending or replacing that section.
6. Section dues shall be set by the Northeast Section Executive Committee. Section dues will be consistent with those of other ASPB Sections.

Article IV. Meetings

1. There shall be at least one annual meeting of the Section (typically *between March and June*) at a time or place that does not conflict with the annual meeting of the Society or other national ASPB-sponsored events.
2. The venue for the annual meeting will be approved by the Executive Committee. The dates for the meeting will be proposed by the meeting organizers and approved by the Executive Committee.
3. Additional meetings may be held at such times and places as may be determined by the Executive Committee.
4. A business meeting will be conducted during the annual meeting. Members in attendance at the annual business meeting of the Society shall constitute a quorum to transact necessary business. Action taken at the annual meeting will stand unless within six months a minimum of two percent of the membership petitions the Secretary/Treasurer to have the action submitted to the Section members for ratification by mail or electronic ballot.

Article V. Leadership

1. The officers of the Section shall be a Chair, Secretary-Treasurer and members of the Executive Committee. The duties of the Chair are to organize and preside over the annual meeting. The duties of the Secretary/Treasurer are to oversee receipt, care, and disbursement of section funds.
2. The Executive Committee of the Section shall be the two officers named above, 5 *elected members (three year terms - staggered)*, and one Section representative to ASPB. The Executive Committee shall carry on any business of the Section that may require action between business meetings.
3. The Chair shall serve for one year (as the host of the annual meeting) and the Secretary-Treasurer serves for five years. Officer's terms commence at the close of the annual Section meeting. All members of the Executive Committee can be re-elected.
4. The Section representative to the ASPB must be a member of the national organization. The term of the Section representative is 3 years, commencing Oct. 1 to coincide with ASPB officer terms. The Section representative is expected to attend all meetings of the ASPB; if he/she can't attend a meeting, the secretary/treasurer must be informed in time to request an alternate member of the Executive Committee to attend the national ASPB body meeting.

Article VI. Election of Officers – This is generally done at the Annual Meeting of the section when the nominees are selected/nominated. The nominees must be present for election at the annual meeting.

1. Nominations of elected members of the Section Executive Committee, and the Section representative to the ASPB shall be administered by the members of the Section Executive Committee in attendance at the Annual meeting. In selecting nominees for each elected position of the Section, the committee will solicit the input of its membership. The Chair of the Nominating Committee will ascertain the willingness of

- potential candidates to serve if elected.
2. Nominations will be solicited and the slate of candidates presented to the Section membership in attendance at the Annual Meeting of the Section. The section members in attendance will be asked to nominate additional persons; all attendees at the annual meeting will vote.
 3. The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep and make available the minutes of the Executive Committee and general business meetings conducted at the Annual meeting of the Section. The Secretary-Treasurer shall supervise all financial transactions of the Section and account for these to the Executive Committee and the membership. The Secretary-Treasurer will bear responsibility for ensuring organizers receive an allotment of funds to sponsor meetings, etc.
 4. The Section Representative to the ASPB will represent the Northeast Section membership at all relevant ASPB meetings during the year. At the annual meeting, these include two meetings (one for the full day prior to the meeting and one business luncheon during the meeting).

Article VIII. Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws

Proposals for amending the Constitution and Bylaws may be submitted in writing by a minimum of two percent of the membership as a group to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Section at least three (3) months before the dates of the annual meeting. Such proposals shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee. Upon approval by the majority of the executive committee voting, the amendment(s) will be presented to Section members for consideration via the Section's web page for 30 days to solicit comments prior to voting by Section members at large. The amendment(s) will be adopted if approved by the majority of the members voting by electronic ballot held within 45 days of posting.