

Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers

Board of Directors Meeting

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Date: 08/25/2021, 6:30PM

Attendees: Bob Wyatt, Claude Dupuis, Dave Foote, Jim Forbes, Jon Siegel, Jim Seroskie, Phil Glover, Mike DiMaggio, Peter James, Tony Immorlica, Elliott Savitzky, Steve Costain

Absent: Gary Canning

1. Presidents Message - Bob Wyatt

- Thank you to the GNHW B.o.D for work and contributions
- Music for picnic
 - Miriam gave information about the Sunapee duo to Bob W.
 - \$500 fee for duo
 - Jon S.
 - Will talk to Ted Blachly about whether he wants to talk to people or play music
 - Steve C.
 - Talked to Ted B. and he'll contact band members
 - Jon S.
 - Ted B. said the fee is 650
 - Band is not too loud

2. Secretary Report by Philip Glover

- Approval of the Meeting Minutes of 07/28/21
 - Bob W.
 - In Presidents message
 - Change Bill Munch to Bob Lacivita
 - Off Topic
 - Bob Lacivita wants to restrict meeting participation to 12 people in the Fundamentals class
 - Need to figure out how to give beginners preference in the Fundamentals class
 - Can Bob L. bump people?
 - Elliot S. did this by making a meeting private
 - Bob W.

- Will talk to Bob L. about how to do this
 - Dave F.
 - updated grants policy
- Vote to accept
 - Passed

3. Treasurers Report by Jim Forbes

- Financial documents were emailed to the B.O.D. prior to this meeting by Jim Forbes
 - Item 8 (General Fund) is \$7,200; usually about \$11K
 - Money spent on new Audio / Visual equipment
 - Need more dues to cover expenses

4. Membership Report by Jim Seroskie

- Membership report was emailed to the B.O.D. prior to this meeting by Jim S.
 - 688 members now
 - Will have a drop Sept 1st
 - Could drop 30 members
 - May be possible to hit 700 members
 - 2-year memberships have been steady
 - Added line "Joined 2020"
 - Lost / lapsed 58 members
 - People liked Journal and Touchups
 - Touchups is unique because it comes out weekly
 - Of the 58 lapsed, 60% had no activity in subgroups
 - Still no responses in survey as to why people left the Guild
 - Jon S.
 - We need to do mentoring
 - Jim F.
 - Mentoring is a big responsibility
 - Jon S.
 - Mentoring should be a topic of discussion at a further date
 - Elliot S.
 - How are drop outs being notified
 - Jim S.
 - Notifications go out 90 days prior; 9 emails in total
 - Tony I.
 - Should we discuss members from far away?
 - Jim S.

- There have been distant members as far away as Switzerland
- They cannot take advantage of discounts at local vendors
- There is a significant postage cost
- Bob W.
 - We should be inclusive
- Jim S.
 - It is restricted to U.S. citizens
- Peter J.
 - Could make an exception and only send electronic versions to distant members
- Jim S.
 - That is possible
- Jim F.
 - We give too much away on the internet
- Bob W.
 - Let people see 3 to 5 complimentary issues
- Jim S.
 - Put partial journals on the website to see
- Mike D.
 - We can send PDFs to foreign members
- Jim S.
 - Members can see all info electronically
- Mike D.
 - Let people see things online
- Jim S.
 - We do that; members can see digital copies
- All
 - No discounts for foreign members
- Jim S.
 - Check for address
 - Can add check box to refuse paper copies

5. Journal / Website updates by Jim Seroskie

- Journal has been kept to 88 pages
- Fall issue should be 40 pages
- If short of 40 pages, can add things from Old Saw
- Would like to have more than one issue per year
- Cost varies with membership count
- Have some new authors / contributors

- About 700 copies needed
- Cost is \$21.43 per member to produce the Journal

6. Touch Ups report by Claude Dupuis

- Could have integrated better with MakerSpace
- We acted independently
 - Next time it may be better to not hang our banner
 - We were at the tent Friday and Saturday due to weather
- We should coach people on how to approach people about the Guild
 - Bob W.
 - Brought small Guild info business cards to hand out
 - Business card size was popular
 - Postcard size was not popular
 - Peter J.
 - Current business cards are 10 to 12 years old
 - Stagecoach group uses both sizes
 - Business card is better
 - Jim S.
 - Will get business card size with QR code made

7. Grants Policy Updates - Dave F.

- Main change is to how we fund sub-groups
- Should there be a cap?
- Will send out changes

8. Membership Dues increase proposal, discussion - Jim S.

- Sent handout on dues history / analysis to distribution
- Compared GNHW to Oregon Woodworking Guild
- Oregon has about \$128K in funding
- Oregon charges \$75 per year for membership
- Oregon has a shop that requires extra dues
 - \$42K in equipment
- GNHW cost per member is nearly \$40
- Journal is our largest cost per member
 - We have \$5,000 to 7,200 in variable costs
 - Jim F.

- Line 15 is too low
 - Five-year average cost per member is \$41.82
 - We are losing money
 - Need to raise membership price
- Jim S.
 - Line 28 - 450 renews
 - Can go from \$40 per year to \$48 per year
 - Can go from \$75 per two-year to \$90 per two-year
- Jim F.
 - Do \$50 per year and \$90 per two-year
- Bob W.
 - The general fund is getting too low
- Mike D.
 - Present the price increase as needed to improve the Guild experience
- Jim F.
 - Video equipment cost is about \$6 per member
- Mike D.
 - Membership would accept price increase
- Claude D.
 - \$50 per year is a bargain
- Jim S.
 - The \$50/\$90 fee would cover the extra cost of the Journal
- Peter J.
 - We have covered this topic in the past
 - We lost members the last time we raised the dues from \$30 per year to \$40 per year
- Jim S.
 - We may lose some, but add more value
- Claude D.
 - We need to forecast 10 years out
 - Is \$50/year enough in the future?
- Tony I.
 - \$50 / \$90 is good
- Bob W.
 - Maybe \$60/\$100 is better
- Mike D.
 - Can we function at the same capacity next year?
- Steve C.
 - \$60 per year is not a lot
- Jon S.
 - Can raise dues incrementally over the next few years
- Jim F.

- Tell membership about the cost of membership
 - Bob W.
 - We can not go 10 years before the next increase
 - Jim S.
 - We are trying to attract serious woodworkers
 - Mike D.
 - We need more membership commitment
 - Bob W.
 - There are committed members out there
 - We should vote on the fee increase
 - Peter J.
 - We don't charge for anything
 - Maybe we should charge in addition to dues
 - Supports \$50/yr.; not \$60/yr.
 - Don't talk about future increases
 - Tony I.
 - What is the inflation impact?
 - Jim S.
 - The Journal cost has dropped
 - Peter J.
 - Inflation impact is about 25% since the last increase
 - Bob W.
 - Motion for \$50/\$90 increase for January 1st
 - Tony I.
 - Make it effective October 1st
 - Jim F.
 - No later than January 1st
 - Mike D.
 - Due a presentation at the September Annual Meeting
 - Tony I.
 - Make it part of the Business Meeting
 - Jon S.
 - Keep presentation brief and simple
 - Jim F.
 - Do vote at the Annual Meeting
 - Dave F.
 - Do vote in November
 - Not at the picnic
- Motion to propose to membership to raise dues to \$50/\$95
 - Seconded
 - Vote is unanimous
- Make proposal in November
 - Jim F.
 - Will end out analysis on cost of membership

9. Annual Meeting / 30 Year Anniversary; planning and logistics updates - All

- Bob W.
 - Would Ted Blachly to attend
- Jon S.
 - Will talk to Ted B.
 - Will do an auction of Jere Osgood wood
- All
 - Make hours 11AM to 4PM
 - Put notice in Touch Ups and send out email
- Jon S.
 - Will present plaques to founders
- Mike D.
 - It is best if Jon does plaque presentation
- Jon S.
 - David Lamb can do Guild history presentation
 - Need a schedule of events
 - Will work with others on schedule
- Mike D.
 - Make Peter Bloch last; after the founders presentation
- Bob W.
 - Will do opening remarks
- Jim S.
 - Need a photo of the gavel hand-off
- Peter J.
 - Will not be at picnic
- Dave F.
 - Will do presentation of slate of directors and vote taking
 - Plaques have been ordered
- Steve C.
 - Will make schedule
- Jon S.
 - Which founders will be present?
- Mike D.
 - Will stream event
- Claude D.
 - Will not be able to stream
- Steve C.
 - Will investigate streaming
- Peter J.
 - Can have proxies for absent founders

- Mike D.
 - Will contact founders about attendance
- Dave F.
 - Tell founders that they are being honored
- Jim S.
 - Important for the founders to re-unite
- Dave F.
 - Do this A.S.A.P
- Mike / Jon
 - Make contact list for the founders
- Steve C.
 - Will pick up tables, chairs, tents, coolers, etc.
- Bob W.
 - Do not remind people about COVID - they know
 - Proof of vaccination is not required
- Jon S.
 - Not concerned about a significant COVID change in three weeks
- Jim S.
 - Should we limit attendance?
 - 90 have signed up
- All
 - Leave attendance limit at 100

10. GNHW Facebook and Instagram updates - Elliot S.

- None given due to time

11. GNHW YouTube Channel Update - Jim S.

- None given due to time

12. New Business (Time Permitting)

- Elliot S.
 - Phil Lowe Project to digitize his furniture drawings
 - GoFundMe site has been set-up to raise a \$25,000 goal
 - Drawings will be put on the internet with free access
 - GNHW should donate \$1,000
- Jim F.
 - Grant chairman should make the donation
- Elliot S.
 - Motion to donate \$1,000

- Dave F.
 - Should be Guild directed
 - This is a good idea
 - Make it \$500
- Tony I.
 - \$500 is reasonable
- Jim F.
 - \$1,000 makes a better statement
- Mike D.
 - Put a notice in TouchUps to participate
- Peter J.
 - Will we be anonymous?
- Jim F.
 - We will put our name on the donation
- Peter J.
 - This is good
- Motion to donate \$1,000 to Phil Lowe Project
 - Seconded
 - Vote is unanimous
 - Accepted

Meeting adjourned at 8:55PM

Next B.O.D. meeting is 09/22/21 @ 6:30PM