

# The Guild of New Hampshire Woodworkers

## Steering Committee Minutes

**Date:** 2/25/2015 at 6:00 PM

**Recorded by** Alan Saffron, Secretary

**Location:** Cobb Hill Construction, 206 N. State St., Concord

### Attendees

Alan Saffron    Jon Siegel    Peter James    Bob Couch    Robert Wyatt    Victor Betts  
Claude Dupuis    Jim Seroskie    Karen Parks

### Secretary's Report

Peter James supported a motion to accept the January minutes, Robert Wyatt seconded, and the motion passed.

### Treasurer's Report

Robert Wyatt reviewed the few changes to the 2014 Budget Results & Treasurer's Report. A motion to accept the report was made by Bob Couch, seconded by Jon Siegel, and after some further clarification, passed. The SC then reviewed the line items and budget figures of the 2015 Forecast Report. Robert explained some of his calculations and sources for some of the figures. The Journal and website budget figures, the Guild's two largest expenses, were supplied by Jim Seroskie. After making several revisions, a motion to accept the report as amended was made by Peter James, seconded by Bob Couch, and passed.

Month ending January 2015 balances

General Fund	\$24,156.40
Education Fund	\$15,677.46
GSWT	\$372.61
<u>Boat Builders</u>	<u>\$852.73</u>
Total	\$41,059.20

### Programs

#### February General Meeting

Peter James reported that although attendance was very low, likely due to the impending snow storm, the meeting at the Pinkerton Academy woodworking shop went well and the programs, particularly Bob LaCivita's presentation, were well received.

#### April General Meeting

Claude reported no known issues from Tony Immorlica. The meeting is scheduled for April 18<sup>th</sup> in Deerfield at the shop of the featured presenter, Greg Brown.

#### Summer Trip

Bob Couch reported arranging a bus and tour of the North Bennet Street School in Boston. A grant from the education fund will cover the \$975 for the bus plus the driver gratuity of approximately \$100. Eli Cleveland, a professional furniture maker and instructor at the NBSS will coordinate and lead the tour. After the tour and free time for eating, Bob also arranged a tour of a furniture and cabinet woodworking shop in Charlestown run on a coop basis.

### Membership

Karen Parks reported paid membership at 553.

Card orders for the new membership cards will be placed on or about the first of each month, with additional orders as needed. New cards will be issued for new members and renewals only. Temporary cards will be issued as pdf files as needed.

Two year memberships were announced in Touch-Ups. Karen will be recording them as part of the card issuing process. Peter James suggested the impact on budgeting will even out over a two year cycle.

### **Small Meetings**

Jim Seroskie noted that Ed Orecchio opened registration for the March 21<sup>st</sup> meetings. Initial response has been positive.

### **School Woodworking Competition**

Karen Parks is contacting teachers to promote student interest and registrations. There should be a number of students participating from the five schools hosting the student's day of the turning symposium. Claude and Jon will follow up on possible prize donations, and Claude will ask the GSWT to appoint three judges. As each student participating will be given a Guild T-shirt, Dick Davis will be asked to order about four dozen shirts.

### **Turning Symposium**

Claude reported having seven demonstrators lined up for the Friday students day, but only five schools hosting the event. It was suggested that two demonstrations can go on simultaneously at Pinkerton and at Merrimack. Jim will design and order a poster and 4x9 cards for distribution to local retailers and supporters.

### **The Old Saw**

Roger Myers offered his resignation from the SC citing time restraints, and suggested the SC consider the mission and relevance of The Old Saw in light of the website and Touch-Ups. It seemed to be conceded that the TOS, with its traditional content was no longer pertinent; Guild news and events were communicated in Touch-Ups and the website, woodworking content was published in The Journal, and post meeting write-ups are no longer emphasized and pursued. Jim Seroskie suggested a more limited role for TOS. Noting SC work and discussion is often noteworthy but not publicized, he suggested a member of SC write-up and compile articles to promote the Guild, provide information helpful to membership such as policy explanations and SC decisions, publicize future events, highlight individual contributions, etc. Jim's suggested format is to publish this new version of TOS as a four page black & white printed insert to be mailed with each issue of The Journal (3 times each year). The benefits of a printed version over an online version include more perceived credibility (especially being mailed with The Journal) and more publishing discipline resulting from having real deadlines. He estimated, done this way, the cost to be approximately \$850 annually. With no other suggestions, the consensus was to go ahead.

Alan Saffron, citing his note taking throughout the meetings, and his previous writing work on subgroup and general meetings, offered to write up the first issue to publish with The Journal in April.

### **The Website**

Jim Seroskie reported meeting with Gonzalo Plaza, a Guild member with IT background who had previously approached Jim volunteering to help with the website. As a result of the meeting, which included Bob Couch, Jim saw Gonzalo taking over the 'back-end' administration of the website. Jim added Gonzalo to the Guild's Volunteer Positions as Web Administrator.

Commonplaces will do a two hour training session with Jim and Gonzalo. The training will cost \$250, which will come from the website budget, and is expected to pay for itself in lower fees during the year.

### **New Business**

Claude put forward a suggestion from Bob LaCivita to create an honorary membership for past presidents. It was noted that asking such members, as past presidents who have done so much for the Guild, to pay money to the organization could be demeaning, and that there was value to keeping professional members involved. Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting as Bob Couch and Jon Siegel, both past presidents, disqualified themselves from the discussion, which prevented any further vote on the topic for lack of a quorum.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00.