

New England Wood Carvers
Executive Board Meeting

Aug 5, 2006

Middlesex Community College – Building 5 (Trustees House), Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Roger Melanson, M. Paul Ward, Yvette Holladay, Leo Lambert

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bob Sisson, Maria LaGoy, Joe Olson

OTHERS PRESENT: Floyd Truitt

CALL TO ORDER: President Roger Melanson called the meeting to order at 9:20 am

Welcome, Floyd Truitt. Minutes approval from May 20th board meeting.

Vice President M. Paul Ward's report: Oct. meeting guest speaker Frank Basch. Also reviewed workshops coming up and expecting to have some of the regulars who haven't responded ie: Chet Blay, etc.

Other meetings guest speakers reviewed. Paul notes that he usually finds the speaker from the fall shows or retreats. Will know by the next newsletter probably who will be guest speaker for the remainder of the year.

Upcoming workshops. Sally Nye suggested, also Helli Mayr from Austria, who does large scale pieces with great detail. His work is impressive, obviously a master carver. Paul says 180 per student for 3 day workshop. Helli expects workbench with vice grip. We will need to put him up if he comes here to do it. He will pay his own flight here. Tyrolian pine is the wood he uses. He brings the wood he required, but students need to bring gouges. Helli has a list of items needed.

Bus trip: 29 people attending \$5600 dollars collected. Benoi to receive \$2352. Bus parking fees may apply. Additional mileage may be charged. Paul will find more information about this. Signed contract and receipt of payment have been received by Paul.

Treasurer's report, by Leo Lambert: New fiscal year. Leo reported where we are sitting. He talked to a person at the bank and went from 3.5 to 5% by talking to the people at the bank. Balance sheet provided with details of the new fiscal year. Bus trip expenses reviewed and we expect to end close to breaking even.

Special drawing raffle. Expect influx from newsletter coming out. Also expect to sell more at the Show, day of the raffle.

New CD for 4000. Leo decided against Scudder. CD would be a better deal, and keep additional saving account. No penalties for cashing in the CD early.

Public charities report Leo is working on. Leo had an article of organization which needs to be added to the permanent records. Leo working on changing the fiscal year. Leo will be sending in a report for 10 months, instead of 12 months to bring our fiscal year to July

to June 30. This is our correct fiscal year. Going back through files, Leo discovered that past treasurers had problems with the fiscal year. A lot of correspondence about the fiscal year where the past treasurers had problems.

Leo is now ready for an audit, as his books are in order since taking it over from Norma. Talk of how to meet and review the books to date. Leo would provide bank statements and P & L report for their review.

Public charities report. We're assuming we don't need a permit.

Membership secretary: Review of where we're at, transfer from Rip, and Roger would like to see a review of how the system works in its entirety.

Membership report:

1. Total membership, dues due, members paid, new members since last meeting

Also, expired or removed members.

Roger proposed possible getting a proposal, contract for a printer. Leo says the cost for paper is going up so rapidly, it may be hard to do so. In folding the newsletter ourselves to save money, Leo suggests making a jig to fold it better.

Discussion about newsletter from other organizations. We feel the direction should be to possibly beef it up with patterns. Also, important to include information from those far away. Make a list of newsletters we receive and who we should sign up with.

Note payment increase and need to find new newsletter.

Roger concerned with area reps not getting the news out to the members. Roger sent info to the rep to distribute. Not sure what is going on there.

Make a list of newsletters, and contact people.

Spirit of Wood Show: Roger is in the middle of that. Roger had various letters to write. Planning meeting coming up and Roger is hoping to have more information by then for people attending, vendors. This time of year slow for responses.

COMMUNICATIONS: Paul gave newsletters to Yvette from other groups. Paul will write up an article about the lost sign that was recently recovered.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Roger working on the New England wood carvers contacts page, along with the area reps. Connecticut wood carvers group. Leo Hinds.. Roger talked to him and we don't get a lot of info from them. Al Gray used to be their area rep. Roger trying to work with them on getting additional information.

Floyd suggests making a note of instructors in database.

Cape Cod Carvers don't exist any more. Other groups discussed. Roger notes that many down the cape go to the senior center. Other groups ran into trouble finding facilities too. Worcester woodchucks disbanded. Central and Monson active. Justin Gordon in Groveland. More groups discussed. List needs updating and Roger hopes to gain more interest from organizations still active.

Leo discussed a guild. The guild would decide master, intermediate beginner levels. This would be a big endeavor, and some feel it would not happen, as carvers just want to carve and wouldn't want to put in the extra effort to do so. Guild makes group purchases, decisions that the smaller groups wouldn't have to be concerned with.

Floyd mentioned how the League of New Hampshire craftsmen, up in Sunapee, has a big show. More discussion about a guild, that if done properly, would draw people and work. Abbington, PA show draws a phenomenal amount of people. Roger's opinion is that the danger in New England is there's a lot of spin off groups. Unless people want to carry it on year to year, they end up losing. Floyd said that was what happened to the Vermont group. Other groups discussed.

Secretary: Roger discussed the new secretary. Karen Seo will be joining us at the October meeting.

Website: Bob Sisson's wife is ill taking most of Bob's time. Bob would still like to continue with updates if he can find the time, but Roger is concerned with adding the information to the site. Roger's looking to get the information onto the website. Suggestion to ask Robin Trudel to help out with the website. To keep the website updated and current, we need to find someone to take over this position. The board has agreed unanimously to hire OKI one day a month for 30/hr. to provide additional assistance. Because of personal problems that Bob Sisson is experiencing, the club will hire OKI for a time being.

Membership list published on a bi-monthly basis. Format list for a small brochure. Roger poses the question to make one up. Should the by-laws be update to remove that item. Discussion to be continued.

**** Yvette excused from meeting at 12:15

Roger Melanson additions:

CARVING PROGRAM FOR 2006/2007

Discussion took place on expanding the workshops to birds, waterfowl, and relief carving as examples. Leo Lambert emphasized the importance of knowing the carvers profile and this should be added to the membership form. According to Leo such a question could be divided in four main areas of interest: wildlife, human figure, caricature, and ornamental. He feels ornamental would be of least interest to our membership. Paul mentioned there are other ways of devising the different styles of carving. Paul uses the summer months to develop the upcoming year's program and hopes to find some guest speakers from the Annual Woodcarvers Retreat in October. He mentioned he might seek out Frank Russell for the June 2007 Membership meeting. Floyd mentioned Peter Benson would be in New England in October. Perhaps NEWC could schedule him for the October meeting but Paul reiterated we're already committed to a guest speaker. Then again, perhaps the Spirit of Wood show could be a possibility. How to fit him in is still open for discussion, assuming he's available.

NEW BUSINESS:

NOVICE CARVING PROGRAM

Roger introduced the need to offer a novice-carving program at each meeting as a way of bringing in new members, or addressing current members who would benefit from such a program. A different skill could or would be taught at each new session. Perhaps the instruction should start later in the morning say 10:30 A.M. and run for 1 1/2 to 2 hours. The consensus was positive and Paul will work on putting a program together. Paul and Leo had a difference of opinion on the format. Leo expressed his thoughts on having a different instructor for each meeting while Paul stressed the benefits of having the same instructor. At this time one or more instructors for this program was left open-ended.

WEEKEND CARVING WORKSHOP

Roger pass out an e-mail he received from Tony Erickson, which was the result of several conversations he had with him that date back to the June 4 Membership meeting. In his e-mail Tony had mentioned two other carvers that would be interested in a weekend workshop at Middlesex. Roger brought up his concern about including Pete Leclair. In addition, the time of year, the ability to negotiate space at the college, cost of the seminar (instructors want \$65 per day per student) and other factors to make it work in NEWC's favor. Also mentioned was the need to form a committee to put such a program together. Paul again brought up the need to have other people work on developing programs and provide studio space because he can't do it all. Roger sent Tony an e-mail requesting he provide him with dates or the season of the year he and his fellow instructors could be here. More discussion needs to take place.

LIVING MEMORIAL HONOR

Roger recommended that NEWC offer a Living Memorial Honor program as one way of building up the general fund of our treasury. It could also include the donation of the deceased member's carving possessions. An example from a senior center was passed out to the Board members who were present. Floyd and Leo both mentioned that NEWC had a similar thing in the past. Names were inscribed on a wooden scroll but later the process was stopped. No one could provide an answer to why it was dropped. The wooden scroll is in Vermont, according to Floyd. He will investigate the matter with people from Vermont and try to make it available to look at for the Vermont show. There were no objections to having such a program. Roger will develop a new program.

DECEMBER HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

There was agreement to have a luncheon at the December Membership meeting centered on a holiday theme. Leo suggested it be something less than the June luncheon.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Area reps still need to be addressed. Roger will be getting to that in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned 12:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Yvette Holladay, Acting Secretary

Approval of minutes: