

New England Wood Carvers
Executive Board Meeting

January 28, 2006

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Roger Melanson, M. Paul Ward, Yvette Holladay, Leo Lambert, Rip Stangroom, Bob Sisson, Maria LaGoy

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ken Brannock, Joe Olson

OTHERS PRESENT: Lorne LaGoy

CALL TO ORDER: President Roger Melanson called the meeting to order at 9:15 am

Announcement from RipStangroom that he will not be continuing Membership Secretary after the end of the fiscal year (June 2006).

Secretary minutes from the Nov. meeting reviewed for approval. Minutes approved by all present.

Vice President M. Paul Ward's report: Paul is still looking for students for his upcoming Don Burgdorf seminar at his house. Spaces still available. Paul noted his interest in having Pete LeClair do a carving seminar. Paul also noted a need for a guest speaker for April. June guest speaker will be Tony Erickson, cotton wood bark carver. Paul and Rip noted his expertise in carving. October guest speaker Frank Borsch from CT. Maria notes Frank Wilson from Tewksbury a possibility for a future guest speaker as well.

Treasurer's report, by Leo Lambert: Balance sheet distributed and reviewed. Finances discussed. We currently have 17 life members. Leo stated concerns with money spent on food at members meeting, however, food will not be provided at the next few meetings. The hope is that members will contribute items of food at each meeting. Leo will be submitting the Public Charities report to the AGO's office within the next two weeks. Past Treasurers for some reason changed the reporting period from our chartered fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) to Oct. to Oct.. Leo will work to have this corrected through the AGO's office. Currently the AGO believes our fiscal year to be Oct. to Oct.

Yvette brought up the newsletter and the costs incurred, reviewing the higher prices of postage and printing. Roger offered his opinions about budgeting for items such as this, the Spirit of Wood Show, etc. Roger states that if people don't want to contribute to the organization that it will surely die, but that we're coming to a crossroads. Roger will put on the next agenda a budget so we can have a feel of where this organization is going. Discussions pursued on a budget and a consensus by the board on the importance of creating an agreed upon budget. With this, the dues are discussed as with many past meetings and discussion on whether the fees should be raised. Roger would like to detail

what we are looking to accomplish in the coming year. Rip notes how the Vermont carvers have a week of seminars to draw extra monies. Maria recommends seminars before the SOW show. Mystic as well offers seminars to their membership. Roger inquires to Leo on creating a budget. Leo states that the P & L will help to create a budget. Additionally, we need to assess what the organization would like to do with it's funds. A building fund was suggested by Maria LaGoy.

Secretary Yvette Holladay spoke briefly about the great job in items given to her by members for articles, etc. Noted in particular was Phyllis Miele and her devotion and hard work she's been contributing to the newsletter. While we considered her for Historian, Phyllis declined. We then discussed making her a life member.

*Unanimous decision to make Phyllis Miele a life member for her hard work and devotion to NEWC.

She will be recognized at the June meeting for this honorable award.

Paul states that he is pleased for the new newsletter as it is being printed now. Paul mentioned a letter from Dick Grenier with his appreciation for this newsletter. Paul believes the newsletter is important as is, and that it shouldn't be cut down in size. Discussions pursued on ideas for the newsletter to promote and improve it.

Spirit of Wood Show: Roger is working on the birds of prey presentation for the next show. He is also in progress of developing the brochure for the show, with a classy cover depicting different carvings and an eagle's head. Also included will be articles and lists. A money raiser discussed was of an outside tent used for things like wood turning, scrolling, and workshops and/or seminars. Roger is looking into the tent possibilities and details of size, location, etc. The hope is to draw more people to the show. The brochure will be four pages, 8.5 x 11" size. Roger is working on other materials like the show card, etc. Roger will also visit a Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, Acton Office, in hopes to tie them into our show, to draw in the people of our group's similar interests. Leo mentioned to contact the local news to cover the live bird of prey, or to get on Chronicle. WBZ weekend also mentioned for publicity. Vendor form, competition form and other items Roger is working on for the SOW Show. Bob Sisson mentioned the Audubon society, and to invite them to set up a booth.

A calendar idea was brought up and discussed for a possible fund raiser, using pictures from the SOW show.

Bob Sisson brought up the NEWC Name, and the inconsistencies. The name is registered officially as 'New England Woodcarvers, Inc.', with 'woodcarvers' as one word. So for legal correctness, we should change the logo name where ever it appears to reflect its correct spelling.

Raffle tickets were discussed briefly for the show raffle.

Rip discussed inventory of items of mugs, patches, hats, decals and what to do with them. Currently, we have enough mugs to last for 30 years at the rate we're selling them, so it

was suggested to use them in raffles, etc. Ken Brannock previously organized the items, with Joe Olson ordering items at times as well. Rip is currently organizing these items and reviewed current inventory. Rip mentioned that he will continue till the June meeting to handle these items but that we need to find someone to take this job.

Roger brought up Wildfowl Magazine and their inquiry about adding pictures and information from our club. Roger passed around the correspondence for review but feels we're not going far with them.

Nominating committee. We need to find a person to fill another position of the nominating committee. Phyllis Miele was suggested. Yvette will call Phyllis and ask if she would be a member of this committee.

Historical items. Roger recommends that we create a historical record of items to pass from president to president so future presidents can review easily what has occurred in the past. It appears newsletters have been used as the source of record for some things such as minutes, etc. but there are many other documents that need to be filed and made readily available to succeeding officers of the club.

Rip made the motion and Leo seconded it for accepting the list of Official Correspondence for Historical Records.

*Unanimous approval for the Official Correspondence for Historical Records list.

Roger inquired to Leo about the scholarship donation, and he will find out who to make the check out to and will let Leo know.

Meeting minutes were discussed and making them available to the membership. We will make a note in the newsletter about minutes availability.

*Motion made and unanimous decision that minutes be placed on website, a copy made available at the membership meeting, and available if requested through the US mail.

Area Reps function. Roger has contacted a few of the area reps to discuss their role. They responded that they would like a copy of the minutes, communications between the president, executive board and the reps. Roger would like to recognize these groups, perhaps at least once a year. Dan Elkins meets in south Attleboro, and invited Roger to visit with their group. Roger will report back after contacting the area reps to discuss what their roll more accurately should be in regards to the organization. Rip suggests we send a kit to the area reps for the benefit to the groups outlining their activities, with handouts of fliers etc. Leo reviewed a press release he made up for the area reps.

Website: Roger feels the website should have a bit more of a punch and that it promote that we are the biggest organization in NE. Roger proposes that we add something that really sticks out. A printout of updates was distributed for review. Also, website newsletters and meeting overviews need to be updated. We need to get information to Bob Sisson to update the website more efficiently. Blogs were brought up and hit counters as well. Rip mentions many people use the website to printout membership application forms. We concluded that a better effort needs to be put forth in sending Bob

Sisson information for updating the website.

Rip has a brochure of carving clubs that is available to members, and always available at the meetings or by mail.

Me and Tange: Roger suggests we buy a couple copies for historical purposes.

* Leo will purchase a copy for the club.

Leo distributed a form, Charitable Donation Receipt, for anyone who donated to the club for tax write off purposes.

COMMUNICATIONS: Bob Schnute sent a thank you card for being guest speaker in Nov. members meeting. Bob Alekshun has had a quad bypass recently.

Frank Russell from Vermont donated a book which will be added to the library.

Roger send a letter to Floyd Truit for becoming a member of the nominating committee.

Letter sent to Warren Blessing congratulating him for becoming president of the Mystic Carvers Club.

Joe Olson sent a letter asking that a few items be recorded as a permanent record of the New England Woodcarvers. The items note members who served, scholarship money donated, and other noteworthy items.

*unanimous decision to add to the permanent record the article that he sent.

Justin Gordon wrote a few letters to Topsfield Fair manager, in regards to the booth. Roger requested that those letters be added to the permanent record.

Leo noted correspondence he collected from Norma Raymond.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: raising membership fees

NEW BUSINESS:

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12:13 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Yvette Holladay, Secretary

Approval of minutes: Bob Sisson, Rip Stangroom, Leo Lambert, Roger Melanson, Yvette Holladay