

New England Woodcarvers Executive Board Meeting

January 23, 2010

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Roger Melanson, M. Paul Ward, Floyd Truitt, Mary Chouinard, Leo Lambert, Yvette Holladay, Karen Seo

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert Landry

GUESTS: Lorne LaGoy

CALL TO ORDER: President Roger Melanson called the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The November 14, 2009 minutes were accepted.

*** BOARD DECISION** -- The Board voted to approve the minutes for 11/14/09 (unanimously).

REPORTS:

Vice President (Paul Word)

2/7 meeting – Guest speaker will be Mike O’Neill who carves whirly-gigs.

Paul reviewed and distributed mail that had come to the club mailbox.

He has a lot of wood for the next meeting.

Paul raised the question of when should we auction vs raffle items. General feeling was that it didn’t make a lot of difference

More books and notes have come in. Paul will bring them to the member meeting.

Treasurer (Leo Lambert)

Leo plans to retire from being NEWC Treasurer by the end of June.

Insurance company sent notice that they’re cancelling our insurance as of 5/1/2010. They’re getting out of this line of business. Leo is looking for a replacement and does not anticipate having trouble. Present cost is \$1000/yr for liability coverage for all the club activities – meetings, the SoW, etc.

As of 1/22/2010, total equity is \$32, 599.98. P&L for 7/1/2009 to 1/22/2010 is \$665,94. Lower than expected because he received a late bill for a newsletter from a previous financial period. Veteran’s charity balance is \$1049.87. Collections so far for upcoming workshops are Dennis (\$680 – 4 people), LeClair (\$1150 – 11 people out of 13 spaces), Mayr (\$650 – 5 people). Dennis is looking into whether those who’ve signed up would be amenable to 5 days in a row instead of 5 consecutive weekends. This will lower the costs.

*** BOARD DECISION** – The Board voted to accept the treasurer’s report (unanimously).

Membership Secretary (Mary Chouinard)

Mary sent Leo \$225 and later \$570 in membership fees processed during the month of January. This was for 6 new memberships (1 free, 4 at \$15, 1 at \$30) and 35 renewals (23 at \$15, 12 at \$30).

Mary sent out 110 renewal notices on 1/12/2010. There were 33 final reminders and 77 friendly reminders..

*** ACTION ITEM:** Mary to add the following information to her reports – total members, # of returning members (aka re-instated), # of new members, # paid-up, # not-paid up (within the 3 month grace period).

Yvette has distributed to the Board (via email) the up-to-date membership list.

*** ACTION ITEM:** Yvette to show Mary how to adjust the font size of some of the data to fit into the available space so that she can print out the membership list.

*** BOARD DECISION** – The Board voted to accept the membership secretary’s report (unanimously).

Newsletter (Yvette Holladay)

Yvette thanked Roger for the outline he’d prepared. She’s continuing to use Minuteman Press – less expensive, good quality. The next newsletter will probably be ready by Feb 1. Deadline to get things to Yvette is 1/29/09.

*** ACTION ITEM:** Roger to order more seals (for use in closing up newsletters for mailing).

Spirit of Wood Show (Roger Melanson)

Roger has started to work with Ed Chapin on the brochure.

Cheryl Dow will be the featured carver.

Roger is starting to work on putting together several workshops.

Justin Gordon was concerned about the judging categories. So Roger has asked Justin to make recommendations.

Ribbons are going to be expensive this year – there are not many left from prior year.

Tree of Hope

Last year, NEWC raised approx. \$3500. There is approx. \$1300 left from last year – it came in too late to use. Maria and Lorne spent \$3600 and were able to fill all the wishes on the wish list for 88 veterans. There was discussion of the VA coordinator had the individual veterans specify what they wanted resulted and this resulted in a wide range of desired items. So the shopping was a lot of work. Perhaps fewer types of more general gifts could be given. There was a lot of interest in material on World War II.

There was somewhat too much of a single kind of ornament. More variety is needed. People like animal ornaments.

*** ACTION ITEM:** Yvette to put in the newsletter a request for books, DVDs, etc. on World War II.

Eagle Cane Project (Floyd Truitt)

Floyd hasn’t received any requests in a while. He plans to step down as coordinator and needs a replacement. He has given Roger a list of the coordinator’s current duties and Roger will be contacting some candidates. The coordinator MUST have a computer and email. Floyd thanked the Board for its support over the past 3 years. He noted that members have a tendency to carve the cane, then not do the final step of personalizing it and instead give it to Floyd. He wants people to do the whole process. It’s possible that they get tired of waiting for a specific request.

Floyd has started a woodcarving group in Townsend at the new senior center on Wed from 12:30-2:30pm. It has 12 to 15 members. It’s a beautiful, new complex – library, meeting hall with the latest audio-visual equipment.

*** ACTION ITEM:** Floyd to give Yvette a notice to put in the newsletter requesting someone to take over as NEWC coordinator for the Eagle Cane Project.

Diorama project (Roger Melanson)

This project is starting up again. Rona is making trees. Roger just received email from Bob Landry with pictures of what the diorama is going to look like. Roger has asked for line drawings as well as pictures so that Monty Tech can get started on constructing the cabinet. The next step is to decide on the dimensions for the carvings. NEWC volunteered \$500 and Rona was able to secure \$500 from Friends of the Oxbow. So we have \$1000 for materials. It will be at least a year before completion.

COMMUNICATIONS

Roger received a thank you from MCC for \$4K for the club's scholarship. He also received a letter from MCC announcing the day that they'll be having the awards ceremony (2/11/2010). Roger went last year. One has to wear a suit and tie. He asked Paul to attend this year.

*** ACTION ITEM:** Paul to attend the MCC awards ceremony to represent NEWC.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

NEWC Goals (Roger Melanson)

Roger presented a set of goals for 2010

1. Increase membership by 6% of membership
2. Revise NEWC by-laws
3. Recruit members to fill officer turnover
4. Evaluate the feasibility of move
5. Develop and implement a plan to increase member attendance at membership meetings.

He discussed how the Board should accomplish the goals – a strategic plan. He circulated a form that showed for each goal, one should specify

- the steps/tasks that need to be done
- who would do each task
- in what month each task would be done
- how the task would be done

He proposed that each of the following Board members fill out the form by the next Board meeting (3/20)

- Mary – increase membership
- Roger – update bylaws
- Leo – recruit officer replacements
- Paul & Roger – evaluate feasibility of move
- Karen – develop and implement a plan to increase member attendance at membership meetings.

Miscellaneous

Lorne receives numerous calls re: is there someone who teaches woodcarving classes in my area.

Paul has put together a draft list of carving clubs and classes in New England. The Board discussed some additions and whether to add classes taught by professional carvers such as David Calvo and Dimitrios Klitsas. A suggestion was made to add links to the NEWC website to websites of members who teach classes.

2010-2011 Election of Officers

All current officers except for Leo agreed that they were willing to continue to serve on the Board. Roger said that every Board member should write a job description for his/her position similar to the one that Floyd wrote for Eagle Cane project coordinator. The Board agreed to make this Goal # 6 for 2010.

*** ACTION ITEM:** Each Board officer is to write a description of his/her position.

Karen suggested adding a 2010 goal of offering judging training. We could get a copy of the California Guild's judge training program. Rip Stangroom has a copy of this.

There was some discussion of whether NEWC should be a guild with member chapters (as is done in California). They have a major show. Each chapter pays dues to the Guild. The Guild can purchase tools and wood at a discount, can have an apprentice program, offer training programs, certification ("You've been approved by NEWC."), etc. There's a NH Guild of Craftsman. It was observed that organizing and running such an organization would take a tremendous amount of time and energy. It is unclear who would do this.

Rent/Lease prospectus

*** BOARD DECISION** – The Board voted to move forward in examining the options for moving (unanimously).

Paul distributed a preliminary list of possible locations. Additional locations such as Minuteman and Shawsheen technical schools were suggested.

The Board discussed the reasons for why we should move forward with this effort. We don't know what the fee at MCC will be over time. (2006 (\$1500), 2007 (\$2500), 2008 (\$3250), 2009 (\$4000)). We can't serve refreshments ourselves; we have to use the college's food service which the club can't afford. Concern was expressed that if the word gets out to MCC that we are looking at other options, this may have negative repercussions.

The meeting adjourned at 12.45pm