



General Meeting June 27th, 2018

New England College, Concord, 5:30 pm

The group began by asking attendees to go around the table, introduce themselves, and talk a little about what most interested them in a prospective makerspace, which is valuable feedback to our planning. This time the general meeting attracted a mechanical engineer, a sculptor, a chaplain, a high school tech teacher, several entrepreneurs, and an illustrator among others. As usual the idea of a shared woodshop was very attractive, but so was the idea of the badly needed community kitchen. They exist in the area, but Making Matters is envisioning a very robust space that could truly launch businesses. Once self-introductions were complete Laura Miller, board president, picked up the torch with a comprehensive look at our vision and what has been discussed so far. A short term goal is to engage the community even before we open our doors by offering classes and also acting as a publication and registration service for classes offered by other organizations. A particularly well received idea was that of a "date night" offering where couples can take a cooking class, while children attended a more youth-friendly program nearby. Events like these would help raise awareness and funds while we ready ourselves to acquire our first space. Through networking we already have an offer of classroom space to borrow. Hopefully one of our first presenters will be the Center for Women for Enterprise, which is based in Nashua and is hoping to reach northward in their mission. Once we achieve our own space, we can return the favor by hosting classes and events ourselves. In addition to providing the tools, workspaces and instruction that are the heart of any makerspace, we hope to engage Concord's rich artistic community by including live music events and craft fairs.

Jared Reynolds, our treasurer, reported on the group's maiden fundraising drive at NH Gives, which resulted in a modest but promising return from both old and new friends. We anticipate participating annually and will be relying on our members and their networks to get the word out of how their small donations will fuel our growth. Another step forward will be an ask to United Way of New Hampshire to include us as one of their partners. While we await official 501(c)(3) status, which will open doors to possible grants and/or corporate giving, we will look to other short term ways to add to our tool and space fund. While the intent is to be self-sustaining through membership fees, space rental etc., additional funding can help us expand our offerings and serve as a financial buffer.

Gary Miller, our vice-president, fielded questions on potential locations, some of which have possibilities and some of which are longer shots. Several people were familiar with the speculation in the Concord Monitor that our group could breathe new life into the Steeplegate Mall. While spacious enough for our wildest dreams with a wealth of available parking, the property was not intended for 24 hour access and there would be concerns about how to wall off our center from other tenants. It also rents at \$10 a square foot. Other properties that would be less prohibitive as a first space carry their own issues of

inadequate square footage, clean-up issues, and even head room. The group continues with their quest and will be taking a second look at an available space on Commercial Street shortly. As a long time makerspace enthusiast, Gary noted he has toured numerous facilities and none of them is in its original location due to changes and organic growth.

All work groups - Space and Equipment, Organizational Structure, Member Relations and Outreach, and Fundraising - still need hands to make things happen. (Fundraising will be meeting next on July 10th and Space and Equipment, July 17th.) An additional low key way to stay informed and contribute ad hoc is to join one or more of our Slack channels. Our growing email list also preserves contact information for parties that currently just want newsletter updates or hope to eventually join us as members. Gary encouraged everyone who is interested to take a field trip to one of the established locations in Manchester, Claremont, Portsmouth, and Nashua, or even to the World Maker Faire.

Anyone interested in joining a work group or receiving access to the Slack dialogues should email the STEAM team at info@makingmattersnh.org.