



Board Meeting Minutes

<p><i>Minutes Approval: concluded March 17th by virtual vote</i></p>	<p><i>Yea: Nancy Paul, Chelsea Bailey, Jared Reynolds, Sandra May</i></p>	<p><i>Nay: none Abstaining: none Missing: Laura Miller, Gary Miller</i></p>
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Minutes March 2nd, 2020

Attending: In person: Laura, Jared, Sandra, Chelsea, Lisa. Guest Ron Merrill. By phone: Nancy, guest Ben Braggins

Apologies: Gary Miller. note: board member Jessica Livingston resigned verbally on or about 2/9/2020. Sandra has confirmed this via Facebook messenger effective February 15th.

The meeting began at 9:03. No formal agenda was distributed for this board meeting. We began with Ron Merrill introducing himself to the board and describing his background which includes "serious woodworking", sales, a welder's certification, and experience house flipping. He has fundraised for the Granite State Symphony and is a current member of the NH Woodworkers Guild. He is hoping to volunteer at the space and offers himself up as a potential board member. He would specifically like to see us do outreach to area nursing homes.

Sandra discussed how e-voting has been going under the new rules. The board engagement has not been full throated. In particular, the vote to procure funds for the dust system fit-up only received 4 board votes, and only passed because one was the president's. Lisa indicated it would be easier to follow if all discussion stayed in one thread. Chelsea has agreed to help board members who are not quite sure how to navigate Slack with the voting. Laura made a motion to ratify the e-votes to pass the minutes and fund the dust system via the Twigg's fundraising kitty and a deduction from the woodshop budget, which Lisa seconded. All voted yes including our telephonic attendee.

Chelsea raised the issue of the overall lack of attendance by our vice president at board meetings particularly now that the makerspace is open. While no action is being taken at this time, it is agreed this is not good for morale and that it would be better to have an engaged member in the VP slot. We are approaching our first election so it seems likely he would not be voted in a second term. We would still welcome his help on various matters regardless of board title.

Laura reported on the first Textiles meeting of Thursday, Feb 27th which had ten attendees. There are several weavers who are looking to be involved with the space; they are concerned that the large donated loom we acquired in January is actually too large, given it requires space around it for use and has 4' x 6' footprint. Suggested uses are either a.) we have people rent usage by the month, with a waiting list of people who want to do their project next but with no promises as to when it will be available (a "library book" approach). Alternately, b.) the large loom is for community projects with members taking turns over time. We could also consider selling it, although Sandra's impression from the donor is she would be dismayed by this. Nancy reminded the group that part of our mission is to provide equipment most people do not have access to and a large loom was a concrete example.

Several people who had attended the textiles meeting volunteered to return that Saturday and gave the equipment some thorough cleaning, in addition to sorting through the donations.

Laura presented several requests for funding from the Visual Arts/Photography department. Bill Wilson is looking to purchase a Photoshop subscription for the space at the reduced rate available from TechSoup, at the cost of \$250/yr. We discussed reallocating the funds from Prototyping. There are also some donated studio lights that need replacement bulbs and a large television to serve as a monitor is desired. No decisions were made about how to fund the items aside from the software subscription.

The Concord Co-Op is interested in providing a sponsorship opportunity. They would like to provide \$500.00 in value, with half of this being an in-kind donation of advertising. They also invite us to participate in their "Round Up" fundraising drive, which would mean a large block of votes from our supporters for us to "win" the donation opportunity. There is a potential of \$4 - 5,000.00.

This June when we hit our two-year mark we are permitted to pursue charity revenue via gambling proceeds. Basically, we would register to be the beneficiary of a poker "room", and would receive 35% of the profits over a period of 10 days. Board members were asked to voice any ethical concerns we might have from being affiliated with gambling. No members expressed an issue with it. Nancy then moved that we pursue this donation opportunity and Jared seconded. Those present and connected telephonically unanimously voted yes.

Jared presented briefly on the status of the USDA reimbursement; there is one more piece of information needed to submit the request. Also, items requested in the USDA grant need to be ordered for us to access the CRDC money. Sandra and Ron can work together on the metal shop asks. The textile group would rather spend their funds on "accoutrements" rather than large pieces of equipment. Sandra voiced a concern this will take longer to organize. We agreed budget matters should be discussed in a separate meeting rather than get "into the weeds" at a board of directors meeting.

Ben Braggins needs to be paid for the Glowforge he sold to the space. He will provide Jared with a receipt.

Laura and Jared are hard at work on the large CRDC tax credits grant application, which is due at week's end. Sandra will assist with an inventory of equipment already in the space which has value. We are also

working on a second USDA grant due at month's end for upgrading the conference/classroom. Jared also remarked we really need to push for members to sign up and rental spaces to be leased. Photographs of the offices would help, which perhaps Bill Wilson can help with. Additional marketing suggestions made in the meeting include Facebook funding to push adds for the spaces, putting out the actual dimensions and hence, the different prices; getting the help of local radio and an assist from Emily at the Chamber.

We look to host a meeting of the Concord Young Professionals Network. A warm month would be best so we can utilize our outdoor space. We will need a sponsor to help cover a bartender's services. Franklin Savings Bank would be a good firm to approach. We also look to team with our new neighbors in Penacook to shift the Farmer's Market to our lawn and to partner with local schools.

Our first weekly evening open house will be Wednesday, March 12th. Laura is hoping we can staff with 2 to 3 members; Sandra feels 3 is a bare minimum and we should try for 4. Other upcoming events include the Pizza Pi & Peace fundraiser, the Young Inventors competition, and the Art of Entrepreneurship conference. Fundraising from the Pizza Pi event will be split with NH Peace Action.

The web site blog is getting a lot of robo-comments (which do need to be human approved to go on the site.) Chelsea will double check that our Captcha is functioning.

We are finding that transaction fees on Square are high; Lisa suggests we look into an alternate system, "Course Storm".

Tentative dates for a Grand Opening were discussed. As Senator Shaheen's office indicated she is interested in attending, we will reach out to them for weekends that might work in April and May. A ribbon cutting with the Concord Chamber could be held on a different date.

We will be holding Space subcommittee meetings just before our Open Houses. Sandra asked that the first one be dedicated to developing procedures and/or documentation for procedures. (There are some systems in place, but not known to enough members)

The meeting concluded at 10:40 am.