



## Board Meeting Minutes 2/9/2021

<i>Minutes Approval: 3/9/2021 Jared Reynolds, Sandra May, Andrew Heath, Ben Braggins, Bill Yacopucci</i>	<i>Nay: none Abstaining: none Missing: Jen Cook, Ron Merrill</i>
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**Attendees:** Jared Reynolds, Sandra May, Ron Merrill, Andrew Heath, Ben Braggins, Bill Yacopucci

**Apologies:** Jen Cook

The meeting began at 1:04 on Feb 9th. As Jen was not present to run the scheduled team building activity, we proceeded to a vote to approve the January 12th minutes previously distributed to the board. Ben voted to accept the minutes as written, Ron seconded, and all present voted aye.

We reviewed progress on the Q1 goals and objectives approved at our last meeting. We have already met our "New Volunteers" goal for the quarter. We are behind where we would like to be on new members. To try and accelerate our growth in this area, we will be looking to participate in Market Days this year, which had been a tremendous driver of early interest when we were last able to attend. Jared also proposes we relaunch open houses. Because traffic at such events has largely been light, we agree the requirement to RSVP online can be set aside and revisited if the numbers are higher than anticipated. We propose holding them every other Monday starting on 2/22/2021 and will announce it in the general channel. Bill suggested we provide the stats for our machinery for our volunteers who may not be as familiar with them.

Our Artist in Residence application period is drawing to a close with fewer applicants than last year, to date. Andrew will reach out again to his contact at NHTI.

Ron has recently facilitated the sale of more tax credits. There are several other companies yet to approach to meet our 2021 benchmark.

The website was briefly discussed. As Chelsea needs to focus on her last semester of college, there is a much smaller pool of people who know WordPress. Sandra would prefer not to switch to a less powerful platform. We agree it is not currently a priority matter.

Sandra briefly presented the January financial reports distributed to the board. Our accountant has tweaked how our improvements to our leasehold are recorded, which more accurately reflects our assets. The gift cards we have sold are categorized as unearned revenue. Ben will reach out to the recipients and encourage them to come on in and get onboarded as members. The board reviewed a \$750.00 payment to Chelsea for prior work on the website for the "Female Entrepreneurship Matters" initiative. Sandra moved to approve this payment to our board member. Ben seconded the motion. All present voted aye. Regarding the Treasurer's report itself, Bill motioned for its approval, Ben seconded. The board at large voted to accept the report.

Andrew Heath is also receiving a fee for teaching both our afterschool Youth Arts Program and the weekend Youth Mentorship program (both currently on hold due to recent coronavirus near-misses). The treasurer did not have the sum of the payments made to Andrew at her fingertips. The board acknowledges a need to vote on these payments as well and will put this on the next agenda.

Jared discussed the status of our grants. We are pursuing a fresh grant from the Charitable Foundation, and awaiting a reimbursement from the USDA for our first batch of expenses. The Route 3 Art Trail grant is also pending; following a funding freeze there will be fewer monies than anticipated to cover the scope of the activities contemplated. Given our limited volunteer bandwidth, we discussed not accepting the funds. Ben moved that we put the matter on hold pending receiving funding at 100 percent. Andrew seconded the motion. All present voted in accordance. Andrew will discuss our concerns with the other partner organizations.

Ben unveiled a proposal for subsidizing mentorship in key areas of the space. (Sandra lost her Wifi connection for three and a half minutes after this discussion began.) Different board members had competing visions about what this would look like. Bill moved that we approve the proposal with changes to the wording and the scope of areas of participation. Andrew seconded and all six directors in attendance voted on the proposal. Ben will make the edits and board members familiar with the skill sets of the possible mentors will provide recommendations to the board. Ben is also willing to administrate the program.

We turned back to the Youth Mentorship program. The Friends program would like to return to holding this in person. We are awaiting word on planned social distancing practices and screening.

Ron advised that Lydia West of the Goosebay company wanted to explore helping Making Matters further by serving on the board. Given our meeting had exceeded our allotted time, we will make this part of the March agenda.

Bill presented his proposal to bring on a general contractor to assist with finding subcontractors and assuring our multiple projects were all viewed together. The board was overall supportive. We will hold a management meeting on 2/16/21 to discuss the existing grant for the artist's collaborative space. (Andrew was obliged to drop off the board call at this time) Bill was asked to confirm with his acquaintance Jim Jones that he was able and willing to serve in this role. He will follow up with us in Slack.

The meeting closed at 3:35 pm.