

Timber Framers Guild  
Board of Director's Meeting

July 27, 2011

Meeting opened at 7:10 pm

In attendance:

Joel McCarty – Executive Director,  
Lisa Sasser – President,  
Chris Gunn – Vice President  
John Mumaw – Clerk,  
Collin Beggs  
Clark Bremer,  
Randy Churchill,

Missing was John Miller, Adrian Jones, and Gabel Holder

Since John Miller was unable to be at the meeting, he and Joel will conference early next week about financial matters and John Miller will report back to the board with his findings. Joel said that John Miller's quick look at the financials didn't turn up anything scary as long as we all remember that our unearned income is being carried as a liability until the Poland project's books are closed. Chris asked if Joel was taking this project surplus into account in his planning for next year's budget. Joel said yes and that he had a conversation today with his project manager about specific changes he wants to make with our approval. Joel also reminded us that there would be a budget to review at Leesburg.

Chris asked if Joel thought that we would be able to have board elections complete by Leesburg. Joel said that he had a schedule that said yes but that the schedule was compressed. Lisa asked if Joel had any new recruits. Joel said that Mike Begyani had agreed to run and that Adrian Jones had also agreed to run again. Lisa recommended that Joel contact Janet Kane about running for the board of directors. Randy asked if Billy Dillon had been contacted. Joel said that he had called but had not been able to get in touch yet. John Mumaw suggested Jim Callahan. Randy also suggested Damon Zirnhelt. Collin then suggested Dave Lanoue. Lisa suggested Andy Roeper. Joel said that the conversation had been very helpful. Randy suggested Will Beemer for a position on the board. Joel said that it might be a little early but that he would make the call.

Returning to financial matters Joel said that we would await John Miller's report. For the Chester bridge project the first receivable due had been paid. Joel said that membership numbers were trending upwards, however glacially. And we have exceeded our membership financial goals for the first half of the year. Joel noted that we had picked up one new life member this month.

The apprenticeship program is chugging along. They have over \$30,000 in the bank and are anticipating another journeyworker application soon. Collin asked if we had lost any journeyworkers in the renewing process. Joel said that we had not. He said that there was a process in place that involved contacting every renewing journeyworker to quiz them on their renewal status and satisfaction with the program. So far there had been no severe criticism of the program but he felt that several journeyworkers were renewing out of a sense of loyalty to the guild and the program. Joel said that the apprenticeship committee had a significant request for financial support for the Trillium Dell workshop. So far, however, the committee had not made a decision those requests.

David Blackwell and Rocco Bellebuono are keeping in contact concerning the Leesburg conference. Joel recently made a site visit to both Leesburg and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (where the 2012 TTRAG conference will be held). Joel said that David Blackwell was hard at work firming up the speakers for the conference and that he hoped to have a list ready for us by the end of the week. Collin asked about a keynote speaker. Joel said that he wasn't convinced that discussing who to pick for a keynote speaker was a great use of our time but that if we had suggestions he would listen. Lisa said that people like Steve Badanes and Philippe Petit helped to make a

conference. Joel said that he still had a relationship with Philippe and that he might try to get in touch with him about this conference. Collin suggested that Philippe might be a little more of a superstar now than the last time he spoke at a conference. Joel said yes but at one time he was a guild member and so probably still had some affection for our group. Clark asked if we had ever considered Norm Abram for a speaker. Joel said that he might be a little controversial for some members but that he would follow up and see if anything might be arranged. Lisa suggested Matthew Crawford, author of "Shop Class as Soulcraft".

Joel said that advertising was still disappointing but that he thought we were still outperforming last year but under performing our budget. He said that we were still working on tracking revenues back through 2008 to make sure that everyone had been billed that needed to be billed.

Joel said that he had a very good Publications committee meeting yesterday afternoon. Lisa and Ben Weiss working together have broken the logjam on website redesign and Joel and Ken are now working on a budget to support that effort. Joel said that we were compensating Ben by upgrading his Adobe Creative Suite to the latest version (5.5). Ed Levin is working on an article for Timber Framing on the Poland project. The Publications Committee is interested in an all digital version of the Guild's latest book. Clark asked if there had been some technical issues with getting the diagrams to look right. Joel said yes and there was still work to do but he was confident they could iron things out. Joel also pointed out that Will Beemer discovered that Amazon offers very good margins for digital publishers. Joel feels that the publication will be ready to go by December.

Everyone is back safely from Poland. One Handhouse student required a trip to the emergency room for a minor injury. Ellen Gibson came down with Lyme disease and is convinced she got it while in Poland. She wanted to alert the other members of the project so they could be on the watch for it. The Poland project looks like it will be extremely profitable. We should have the final numbers by August 15<sup>th</sup>. Joel said a lot of the credit should go to Alicia for keeping field expenses under control. Lisa added the Joel should definitely share in the credit. There is a plan for Alicia to return to Poland to move the timbers into the museum. She will use a local crew to accomplish this and it will require an additional contract. This didn't happen while we were there because the museum wasn't ready for the timbers. This will just be to get the timbers into the museum while there are still openings large enough to get them in. The full installation will not take place until the museum is finished sometime in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2012 and that will again require another contract.

The Chester project is underway and Joel is making blog posts. Joel thinks he's spent as much on the Chester project as is necessary so unless something goes awry we will do pretty well on this project also. Collin complemented Joel on good budgeting for both of these projects. Joel said that the flip side to this was that some members may feel that it is inappropriate for the Guild to be doing so well on these projects and that they instead should have been commercial ventures. Clark said that he felt it was fine to make money on the projects as long as we weren't making as much as would be made were they commercial ventures. Joel said that he felt that as long as we kept good records and were transparent about the process he felt that we would be ok.

Joel mentioned that Clark had been working on a project for some time. Clark said that the project involved re-purposing part of Fort Snelling into a charter school. The upper fort (a newer portion) has been neglected over the years. The part for the Guild would be a large meeting hall/cafeteria. Although the project is still in the planning stages he is hoping it would be ready for a project in the spring of 2012.

Joel mentioned that we have not approved June's minutes. Randy moved to approve them and Clark seconded.

Joel asked Randy whether he and John Miller had revisited the staff health insurance. Randy said they were waiting for Poland to wrap up but since it now had they would get right on it.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm

Respectfully submitted by John W. Mumaw