

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Nova Scotia Potters' Guild, 2010

February 14, 2010

The Annual General meeting of the Nova Scotia Potters' Guild was held at the home of the Co-President Sharon Fiske in Halifax.

Present were:

Louise Pentz - Co-President
Sharon Fiske - Co-President
Mary Jane Lundy - Communications Director-Editor
Judy Gordon - Membership
Janet Doble - Treasurer
Susan Paczek - Secretary

Danielle Sawada
Lee Yorke
Iris Patterson
France Arruda
Naomi Walsh
Sharon Morriam
Roseanne Tanner
Lily Greer
Gillian Murdoch
Carol Morrow
Bunk T
Doug Bamford
Chris Tyler
Deborah Wheeler
Carol Smeraldo
Lori
Rosemary Metz

Members came from as far away as Lunenburg and Truro. Judy Gordon (membership) stated there are currently about 75 members.

The meeting was called to order by Lousie Pentz, who chaired the meeting. Members were asked to introduce themselves, the clay and temperature they used, the type of work they did and where. The introductions included the announcement of the newly appointed secretary (Susan Paczek). The secretarial position will include tasks such as taking minutes of meetings and writing grant proposals.

Susan Paczek read out the minutes from the 2009 AGM. Louise then asked if there were any questions regarding the minutes. France Arruda asked who won the people's choice award at the 2009 Shaping Spaces Show at the Mary Black Gallery. This award was won by Louise Pentz, with Carol Smeraldo's work earning a close second.

Sharon Fiske gave an update on the Goodstein pots from last years meeting. She had fired some but the son took these since Betsy had made these pots for his wedding. Therefore it appears there will not be a sale of these pots.

The donated gas kiln is currently on Judy Gordon's property.

Discussion ensued regarding a potential mug sale proposed in last year's minutes as a fundraiser for the guild. Chris Tyler suggested that the summer market is not a good venue as attendance is poor. Danielle Sawada suggested the Saturday farmers market as a location. Bowls of soup instead of mugs was suggested by Louise but Doug Bamford pointed out this would raise food handling issues. Doug further pointed out that other sales solve this issue by partnering with a restaurant or cafeteria. The Halifax Crafters market held April 17 was brought up as another possible venue. Doug Bamford mentioned that the Hungry Bowls event hosted by NSCAD is sorely missed by the community and it would be nice to bring that back. The discussion then turned towards a charity fundraiser rather than a NSPG fundraiser. Louise halted the discussion and suggested that a fundraising committee be formed to deal with these topics later.

Chris Tyler moved for the 2009 minutes to be accepted, someone seconded the motion and all agreed.

The Treasurer (Janet Doble) passed around copies of the 2009 Financial Report. The year's opening balance was 3,985.83, and the closing balance was 2932.96. However, more expenses were already incurred for 2010 reducing the Guild's current funds to 1,585.05. Janet pointed out that the guild cannot continue to spend as it had in 2009 and recommended that to host workshops in the future, it is important to have a good sense of what the expenses will be before planning them. This would help determine what the workshop fees should be. She also pointed out that the Shaping Spaces catalogue cost approximately \$4,000. Chris Tyler expressed surprise that the Mary Black wouldn't fund the catalogue, but then pointed out that this gallery now has a new director. He suggested the Guild should never take a loss on a workshop. Janet stated that receipts are still coming in for it, 6 months later.

Louise suggested the Guild needs policies for future workshops.

In an attempt to cut printing costs for The Dish, Louise asked the members how many people want to receive a paper copy versus being content with an electronic copy which they could print off themselves. Only Gillian Murdoch raised her hand.

A member asked if there is an archive of all previous copies of "The Dish". It was suggested that these could be archived both on the NSPG website, as well as with Nova Scotia Archives.

Bunk asked if the guild has assets and said that the Financial Report is actually an income statement since as a guild we're obligated to calculate all assets. A discussion then ensued as to whether the kiln that had been donated to the Guild is actually an asset or a liability. Doug raised the point that the replacement cost of the kiln could be used as "matching funds" on future grant proposals to raise funds to get the kiln operational.

Someone moved to approve the Financial Report, all were in favour, except for Chris Tyler who was against it because of concerns over its format and the fact that the kiln wasn't listed as an asset. There was some discussion over

whether the Treasurer should get some sort of accounting software, with some concern over the funds and the amount time it would take to learn how to use it. The Financial Report was then accepted with Chris' objection noted.

Louise pointed out that the Guild website is now advertised in the Provincial Guide and advised all members to keep their content on the NSPG website up to date. Danielle Sawada suggested having a section on the website indicating which members teach and where classes are available. A discussion ensued with the following suggestions made: organizations with classes could apply to get a membership, individual teachers could put in their write ups that they teach, and workshops could be put on the website. It was suggested that there be one or two deadlines each year for content changes to maximize the efficiency of website updates.

Rosemary Metz raised the issue of privacy on the website, since currently people's addresses, home phone numbers and emails are available online and not everyone may want that. Judy Gordon pointed out the membership form has been modified so people can specify how much or how little information members want made public. Sharon moved, and Carol seconded, that this method for dealing with privacy (via the membership form) be used. This motion was approved by all members present.

Sharon Fiske said she was approached by a commercial tile worker who is interested in custom tiles for new construction and home renovations. She passed around the man's business card: Brian Mitchell, 8 Oland Crescent, the Tile Store, Bayers Lake, Halifax. Ph: 1-902-457-TILE (8453). Members can contact him directly.

Louise Pentz spoke of the possibility of a NSPG submission to the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery, based on her conversations with a curator there. An open call would be put out to guild members, with each invited to send a cd of 5 - 6 images per person and an artist statement. The curator would then review all images for a theme and to see if he sees a show in that body of work; the guild would not come up with a theme. It was proposed that a deadline for submissions be set for this fall. Any work submitted would have to be available for the show for the next 2 years. Artists selected would receive an artist fee but would be responsible for shipping their work.

Mary Jane Lundy addressed the group with an invitation from Jane Herald to come fire her wood kiln in Cape Breton, near Inverness. There would be accommodation for approximately 10 or more people for a fee of \$100 - 150, details still to be sorted out. The work shop would be the second weekend of August with people arriving Thursday, and unloading the kiln on Wednesday making for a full 5 - 7 days. Mary Jane said she would take on the organization of this workshop and any interested members should contact her.

Doug Bamford of NSCAD addressed the group and spoke about how NSCAD's wood kiln is disassembled and is no longer in the Morris' Tea site. He presented the idea of having another group take care of the kiln housing and maintenance, and have it permanently installed in a downtown location. He pointed out that the Port of Halifax occupies federally owned land and the Port has a mandate to support culture. At this point Doug just wanted to know if the NSPG would support this idea (perhaps through letters of support in the future). He suggested that funding would be available once someone took on the project and convinced the federal or provincial government, and/or HRM to take up the cause. Ideally the area around the kiln could be developed into a communal workspace to be used by the guild. People

discussed how other guilds have an actual shared workspace. It was mentioned that the craft centre space near NSCAD could potentially be a good spot but Chris Tyler pointed out the centre isn't being properly funded and therefore there is no sense of permanency about that space. It was moved by Chris Tyler that NSPG expresses support and interest in principal for the establishment of a community wood fired kiln in the port of Halifax. This motion was seconded and all agreed.

The final item on the agenda was future workshops and visiting artists.

Doug Bamford announced that NSCAD is bringing Janet DeBoof from Australia, April 5 - 9th, and that NSCAD is going to try and do a better job of inviting the guild and community into its workshops.

Louise Pentz has ordered tapes by BC artist Mary Fox on her work, as well as a lecture on creativity that she will share in a group screening when she receives them. Carol Smeraldo suggested that this could potentially be a way to fundraise, by charging people to come watch these films but another member pointed out this would require Mary Fox's permission.

Members present then discussed other possible workshop ideas. Danielle would like a workshop on making sinks. France suggested that Christie Chaplan Saunders give a workshop on making air released molds for larger objects. Chris Tyler suggested Peter Thomas who is from NB, works at different temperatures and can draw and paint. Janet suggested the Craft Centre as a potential location for future workshops.

Louise asked if anyone had anything further to add to the agenda. Lee Yorke asked if guild members communicate via facebook; while some members have facebook accounts and are 'facebook friends' with each other, there is no group or page for the guild itself and no desire by the group to create one.

Sharon Fiske then addressed the group saying the guild is dynamic and moving forward and accomplished a lot this year. This was met with a round of applause.

Danielle pointed out that Petta James at the HRM is always looking for proposals to the Resource Recovery Fund Board which has \$500 grants for projects involving recycling.

Gillian pointed out that burnsomatic is discontinuing their power cells so if you have this sort of torch she suggested you buy all the power cells you find if you see them in shops.

Lily Greer, president of Turnstile Pottery said that Turnstile will be looking for new co-op members in the next few months.

Louise adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Paczek - Secretary