

GLPG Board Meeting, May 26, 2020

Meeting convened at 9:50am via conference call

Present: Charlie Seebeck, Anne Szilagyi, Sara Laitala, Lyn Sawicki, Liz Meyers, Sophie Wang, Tim Candy, Barb Hyman, Joan Witter, Wendi Tilden, Madhu Anderson

Charlie moved to approve the minutes from April 26. Anne seconded. Approved unanimously.

Financial information: Madhu presented the proposed budget for the coming year. Madhu will provide the budget to the membership. The Board thanked her for her ongoing work in providing this information. Charlie moved to accept the budget, Lyn seconded. Approved unanimously.

Report on actions from Bill Guerin to help contain building expenses:

Heat turned off, no AC as we are not using Guild heavily so we will save that cost (NOTE: Charlie had furnace and AC serviced)

Utility Bill - Bill spoke with provider and got us on a lower cost program

Trash Removal: Bill changed pick up to once a month for now.

Phone: Bill got a better deal on phone service. He will revisit this with ATT in June to see if an additional discount is available due to COVID. He installed a message on the phone directing callers to the website as Guild is closed til further notice for COVID.

There was some discussion, wondering if it is financially beneficial to discontinue the internet. One question was if we want to keep it to facilitate an onsite sale should that happen? Determined that we needed more information about the price and contract. No decision reached, we can gather this info, likely from Bill Guerin, and discuss this some more in the coming month.

FINANCES: Clay report

With clay costs continuing to rise, the board considered several strategies to curb this trend. The following discussion was posed by Bill Guerin:

The only Standard Clays we get are 257 (porcelain) and 182 (white

stoneware), both of which are available from West Michigan. We've had no dealings with Jan Sadowski since we switched to Laguna (which he is not a distributor for) and Roger has not spoken to him since then. I learned from talking with Standard's technical support people that their price for dry clay (153) is only a few cents more than their boxed stoneware price (\$0.47 vs. \$0.44). We've been using dry Laguna 850 for making clay and it went up in price from \$0.38 to \$0.77 a year ago. I haven't heard a plausible explanation for that and shipping costs would not account for it. Laguna 850 and 900 are our main stoneware bodies now, both coming from West Michigan Clay.

Do we want to try some 153 from Standard to see if it will work for us and possibly change clay bodies? They use mullite for their grog. They say they have fixed the breakage problem that caused us to go to West Michigan and Laguna for all our clay needs. Or, do we stay with Laguna and pay the difference? This issue was discussed and will be researched further. Sara offered to research this a bit online regarding potters' recent experiences with 153.

Other concerns were related to our under accounting of our clay use. Some strategies were discussed to address this problem.

For the sake of clarification, regarding clay allotment, Liz moved to change wording of our yearly allotment from "four boxes" to "clay credit" of \$75.00. Joan seconded. Approved with one "no" vote.

Lyn proposed that our clay use chart needs to be more specific so people can properly account for the clay they take. Wendi will update the chart to clearly indicate all types of clay used. Lyn and Geoff will inventory clay and chart monthly with notification to members. Tim moved to accept, Barb Hyman seconded. Approved unanimously.

Charge members \$6.00/bag for recycled clay. Joan moved, Charlie seconded. Approved unanimously.

5. Report on the driveway: Tim said that after he used the crushed Asphalt on his own driveway, he had concerns about it and investigated other possibilities. Tim offered options and his opinion on the quality of several

materials. In the end, the original company that he talked with seemed to have the best price and good quality.

Charlie moved to purchase two loads of asphalt mix and have Tim spread it at cost of \$1400.00 Lyn seconded. Approved.

Tim would like to cut down the big tree next to the dumpster due to risk of falling that this tree poses. It is also in a location that would require removal in the event of possible future building. Liz moved to accept, Charlie seconded. Approved.

Contracting for Replacement of the Doors in the Kiln Room:

Should we proceed with the contract for doors as we voted to do previously, and get our names on the list of the contractor? This work would be done over several days time after the roof is completed. Bill will be the contact person. Tim will paint the doors once they have been installed. Charlie moved to accept as written, Sara seconded, vote passed unanimously.

There was some discussion of our next steps in allowing for more activity at the Guild. We need more information from the members, responding to a number of concerns. A questionnaire is being formulated by Barb Hyman with input from Wendi and the board. The questionnaire will be sent to all members and VPs. The answers will help frame this conversation at the next board meeting.

Suggestion to membership committee that this years' VPs get a bonus year in the coming year, with no additional VPs added. Details to be worked out by the membership committee.

Charlie made a motion to adjourn, Liz seconded. Approved
Next meeting June 11 @ 9:50am, by conference call.