

## **Minutes of the Lake Erie Woodturners Chapter Meeting**

American Association of Woodturners

February 17, 2023

**Officers Present:** Ron Tomasch, President; John Kolat, Treasurer; Sharon McDonough, Secretary

**Members attending:** Attendance List attached

The regular monthly meeting of the Lake Erie Woodturners Chapter of the AAW was called to order at 9:30 am by President Ron Tomasch.

### **President's Report:**

1. Ron explained that the need for a Zoom meeting this month was due to two fires in the building which made it unsafe. The electrician who was working to make repairs in the building after the first fire didn't finish the project he was working on and left the breaker on when he left. The conference room in the southwest corner of the building not only burned, but was also further damaged when the fire department broke all the building locks and some windows and removed many ceiling areas. The building's owner, Pat New, had bought all the materials to replace the ceiling damage after the first fire, but the next day, the second fire started. It's estimated to have done \$60,000 worth of damage.
2. Cameras in the building's offices show a person walking around inside the building. Pat doesn't want people from LEWT inside his offices and now has put locks on all the doors. Extensive damage was done to his office.
3. Ron and Pat went through the building and were able to get power and Internet in our meeting room. However, Pat said it's a good idea for LEWT to look for a new building for our meetings. He explained that the building is radioactive and some areas are now dangerous to walk in even though Pat has used chains to cordon off the radioactive areas. Pat has three new contracts he's considering, and if they go through, he might fix the building. If they don't, Pat is considering retiring and selling the building.
4. Ron has looked at another building on Lane Road near Sheets and IGA but it would have to be cleaned out. Ron will talk more with the owner but his chief concern is the security of the building and our equipment. Ron is not sure if theft is covered for our equipment

although injuries are covered. LEWT is covered through AAW, but he will check to see if we're covered for fire and theft.

5. Dues are due no later than the March meeting. For those who are uncomfortable paying them without knowing what the future holds, Ron will refund your payment. He will be making a new membership list, but those who have not paid or who got their dues refunded will not be listed on our mailing list and will not have access to our website.
6. Our club has approximately \$2,700 in the bank but Ron needs to be reimbursed for the Christmas party, web page, and the Zoom fee. The North Coast club pays for 1/3 of the Zoom fee, LEWT pays for 1/3, and Ron pays for the last 1/3. We have the Pro Version contract with Zoom which includes unlimited time, meetings, and viewers.
7. Chris Cahill suggested that we form a committee to search for a new meeting place. Jack Eisler, Chris Cahill, Eric Schwarz, and Ron volunteered to serve on this committee. They will look for a place that has at least 600 sq. feet of space, a bathroom, a 110 box or 240 line, and the ability to securely lock our equipment. They will look for a location in Lake or Ashtabula Counties. We may have to lease a new building if they can't find a free space.
8. It's unknown whether Pat will decide to close the building at the end of March because of all the damage and repair cost. In that case, Ron said that it might be possible to move our cameras and equipment to his workshop in Geneva and temporarily hold Zoom meeting from there. However, because space is limited, not everyone could attend. Most would have to watch the meetings via Zoom until we get a new building.
9. Another choice would be to fold the club. Ron would have to find out how Ohio laws require the money in our bank account to be divided since we are a non-profit group.
10. Ron may call another Zoom meeting in a couple of weeks to discuss what the committee has found. Ron welcomes suggestions from any member who learns about a possible meeting place.

**Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will be at 9:30 am on Saturday, March 16, 2024. Meeting place or Zoom will be announced via email.

Minutes submitted by: Sharon McDonough

## **Zoom Attendance at February 17, 2024 Meeting**

1. Ron Tomasch
2. Isabel Quayle
3. Tom Pavlik
4. Sharon McDonough
5. Chris Cahill
6. Isabel Quayle
7. John Kolat
8. Jack Eisler
9. Steve Neubert
10. William Nuebert
11. Dave Manupella
12. Eric Schwarz
13. Ken Kahr
14. Mark Bielech
15. Steve Klaue
16. Greg Seymour
17. Charlie Irish
18. Rich Biller

## **IRD Attendance**