

Minutes of the Northern Virginia Bead Society  
General [Zoom] Meeting – February 4, 2021

The general meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by president Sherry Ellis.  
Approximately 24 members participated.

#### Business Meeting

The business meeting was called to order at 7:30.

Members were informed that Laura McCabe will not be teaching for us in April as she is no longer teaching through third parties such as bead societies or bead shops. She may consider teaching during the second half of 2021 and will inform us. That she is not currently teaching is a major disappointment as was the short notice of her change in plans.

Instead, there is an event that has been planned for April. NVBS has purchased Julia Pretl's Lotus Flower Box instructions and they will be shared with current members as a Beadalong. Membership has its privileges! Members and attendees have the option of working on the box or a project of their own choosing. Several members have already begun working on the box in anticipation of potential confusion or problems. Diane and/or Paulette will work on clarification of directions. It was also mentioned that the Facebook group "Seed Beads and More" is currently doing a free beadalong of another of Julia's boxes which also includes some videos.

The financial documents were included in the email inviting members to this meeting and those documents were discussed. Several other items were not in the budget that was presented but are now included -- \$200 for the new Museum of Beadwork, \$300 for Guest House and \$500 for Beads of Courage / Children's Hospital. Paulette offered a motion to approve the budget; Marcia seconded the motion. The budget was approved unanimously.

One item that will be in next year's budget is the payment for updating the NVBS website. The \$1000 cost will be included in the expenditures category for next year. Yahoo is no longer supporting the Site Solution platform; Wordpress is the new platform. It is a turnkey website with no expected maintenance fees.

NVBS received an email from Guest House, which is looking to sell a donation to their beading supplies – wildfire, tools, etc. We are unable to accept any such donations – the storage unit is full. If anyone is interested in seeing or purchasing any of those materials, Sherry has an available PDF to be shared.

The biggest item for this business meeting is the long-term viability of NVBS. It was possible that NVBS made a profit this year; however, the numbers show a loss for 2020. This 2020 loss was considerably less than the usual losses we normally incur – more along the lines of \$6500 - \$7500. Even with losses, NVBS could continue to exist for approximately 8 years. There are other problems that pose a bigger issue than the financial losses. The Bylaws and Standing Rules are extremely out of date. There are committees for which there is no reason – Bead Show, Nominating Committee, Budget Committee – and those documents do not reflect how we currently operate. Major revision will be necessary. It is possible we will need a committee to figure out what is actually needed. It was suggested that if our official documents are simplified, we may attract more members. The possibility of sharing positions was raised but that does not seem to be appropriate at this time.

Another major issue is the fact that Diane's term as treasurer ends in December 2022. It is a labor-intensive job with much to be learned. Someone must step up and begin learning what's involved by no later than March 2022. If no one steps up, NVBS will begin the process of shutting down June 1, 2022. Once that process begins, there will be no reversing of it.

Sherry is willing to serve another term as president in addition to her maintaining and updating the web site, in addition to her own full time job.

Another issue discussed was the need for an income source. Member dues do not cover our expenses. If/when we go back to in person meetings and especially workshops, our losses will continue to deplete our funds. In person workshops incur speakers' fees, travel expenses, food and accommodations costs; in person meetings incur rental costs.

If NVBS is to continue, the Bylaws, Standing Rules and other documents must be rewritten. If that happens, another issue to be resolved is whether or not we, as a 501 (c) 3 organization, are required to have a fundraiser for outreach. This would probably require some research and possibly involve an attorney or CPA who is experienced with non-profit organizations.

A new member – Andrea who is located in North Carolina – has offered to be treasurer. She has been a Vice President in other organization(s) and has been an association manager for 2 non-profits.

Also discussed was the fact that we have had dwindling membership each year. Many people have aged out of the beading passion or have moved away or have developed physical issues that preclude beading experiences. We need more people to get involved and we need more input. Briefly mentioned were issues that occurred in the past with participants that resulted in difficult circumstances. Also briefly mentioned was the change in venue and date for the Bead Show. It was a great deal of work with diminishing returns. We have had several “distance” members join NVBS recently, possibly due to the fact that our workshop offerings are virtual. It would not be expected for distance volunteers to be heavily involved in volunteering, and perhaps not at all. With the current national and international medical circumstances, many bead artists are offering virtual workshops independently of shops and bead societies.

After the business meeting, the Bead Squares Project was presented. Several members have completed squares, several more are in progress. Paulette shared more information about the project as well as pictures of already completed squares. At both tonight’s meeting and last month’s meeting, Paulette presented PowerPoint slide shows. The slide shows can be saved as PDFs that can be shared. Paulette will send them to anyone who would like them.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.