

Greater New Hampshire Linux Users Groups (GNHLUG)
Organization and Board of Directors' meeting
31 May 2007, East Basement Room, Nashua Public Library

Attending:

Heather Brodeur	“Heather”
Jon Hall	“md”
Michael Kazin	“Michael”
Shawn O'Shea	“Shawn”
Ted Roche	“Ted”
Bill Sconce	“Bill”
Ben Scott	“Ben”

Ted, acting as chairman *pro tem*, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM EDT.

Proceedings

- Ted orally reviewed the minutes from the 22 December 2006 meeting of the incorporators (where they agreed to serve as the initial Board of Directors of GNHLUG)
- It was observed and confirmed:
 - that Ben, Heather, Ted, Bill, and md (md *in absentia*) had consented to be incorporators
 - that the full size of the Board is 7 members
 - that coincidentally, there seemed to be 7 persons present ;)
 - that certain others had also been approached but had declined
- It was agreed to defer appointment of officers, except for Bill, who consented to serve as Secretary *pro tem*.
- **Resolved:** it was moved (md) and seconded (Ted) that nominations be opened for fulfillment of the Board of Directors. (Unanimous.)
- **Resolved:** it was moved (Ted) and seconded (md) that two new members, Mike and Shawn, be accepted onto the Board of Directors. (Unanimous.)
- Ben asked if anyone present had an accounting background. Answer: Ben, Heather.
- **Resolved:** it was moved (Ted) and seconded (Heather) that Ben be named to serve as Treasurer. (Unanimous.)
- **Resolved:** it was moved (Ted) and seconded (md) that Bill be named to serve as Secretary. (Unanimous.)
- **Resolved:** it was moved (Heather) and seconded (Heather) that Ted be named to serve as Chairman. (Unanimous.)
- Tax status
 - We are OK with current status for 5 years
- We are a New Hampshire nonprofit: “Greater New Hampshire Linux Users Group”
- GNHLUG have no debts; everything we own has been contributed by members (*e.g.*, our computer equipment)
- We are not yet IRS 501«anything»
- Ted has IRS documents; some of the instructions are on the Wiki
- What locations should the Treasurer consider in opening the bank account?
 - DCU mentioned
 - Citizens mentioned
 - A consideration: it would be nice if the institution selected has branches nearby for any future Treasurer (*e.g.*, should a future Treasurer live in Hanover)
- Shawn asked if we should start a mailing list for the Board of Directors. Ted suggested that no, the .org list is appropriate. This was the consensus (no vote was taken).
- **Resolved:** It was moved (Bill) and seconded (Ted) that Ben:

- is to get our Federal Tax ID
- is to come back with a recommendation as to a bank for GNHLUG to use
- is to get together with Ted and and open the account

(Unanimous.) **(Action Item)**

- Ted noted that GNHLUG's address is his address fornow. Ted asked if GNHLUG needs an address; the sense of the Board (no vote was taken) was that we do. Ted is to e-mail Ed Lawson and ask if the need is real. **(Action Item)**
- **Resolved:** It was moved (Bill) and seconded (md) to authorize Ben and/or Ted to open the PO Box, if/when Ed Lawson and/or list discussion so indicates. (Unanimous.)
- It was informally agreed that Ted would find out whether Board voting can be done electronically. It was the sense of the Board (especially md) that the answer is yes. **(Action Item)**
- Ted read to the Board the Terms of Service of GNHLUG's Web server. It was informally agreed that Ted was to submit them to Ed Lawson for comments. **(Action Item)**
- **Resolved:** It was moved (md) and seconded (Bill) that GNHLUG purchase our server from Ben for \$1 US. (Unanimous.) **(Action Item)**
- Ben requested permission to go to MV Communications and
 - transfer to us **FIXME:** what? [record of who owns the server, probably]
 - hosting services (loc, air conditioning, etc.) **FIXME**
- It was informally agreed that MV Communications should be frequently and publicly praised and thanked for their hosting and contributions to the electronic communications which make GNHLUG possible. **(Action Item)**
- The fact that the mailing list sometimes veers off course, and sometimes drives people away, was brought up (md) and informally discussed.
 - Do we need “guidelines”?
 - It was suggested (md) that guidelines be written up
 - By whom? Ben volunteered; Ted demurred; Bill demurred, mentioning Shirky's paper¹.
 - md volunteered to do the draft
 - md appointed by acclamation.
- It was informally discussed and agreed that the current triple of .org/.jobs/.announce has proven itself a good structure.
- The MythTV InstallFest was informally discussed.
 - Jarod showed up on Slashdot.
 - md will review over the next week or so **(Action Item)**
 - Next round: shall we invite students at NHTI to join in?
 - Next round: our rules will include “the hardware configuration we specify *or else*”
 - md to put together a timeline, clear it with the school, make a proposition **(Action Item)**
- NEARFest and GNHLUG's participation were informally discussed.
 - Ben and md staffed the GNHLUG booth
 - Spaces and support were a lot more expensive than had been the case at Hopkinton
 - \$40 US for *one* space; tables were more expensive too
 - A lot of people attending, and traffic by our table was good
 - Our locations was not so good
 - Building was nice; electricty was good
 - Organizers were disorganized
 - md to write it up **(Action Item)**
 - Bill to copy recent QST articles about Linux in the amateur radio press **(Action Item)**

Adjournment was moved, seconded and voted (unanimously); the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM EDT.

¹ http://shirky.com/writings/group_user.html - “Netiquette [mostly doesn't] work...the recidivism rate for flamers is high.”

Some additional discussion followed informally after adjournment:

- It was informally discussed and agreed that a formal “status of GNHLUG” is a continuing discussion (among the entire membership as well as the Board), and not resolved at this meeting
- It was informally discussed and agreed that treating volunteers well is important; e.g., that someone who has volunteered to help with a particular issue should not find his or her efforts treated in such a way that it appears they are being ignored or shunted aside – always a possibility in any organization, particularly a volunteer organization
- It was informally discussed and agreed that definitions of “membership” or classes of membership is a continuing discussion, and that neither was resolved at this meeting.

Prepared and revised 2 August 2007; re-proofed revised 7 August 2007

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Sconce
Secretary