Minutes. Members were encouraged to read the minutes of the January 8 committee meeting and the Annual Members Meeting.

Ides of March event. The event has been cancelled because of very low ticket sales despite the announcement being sent to the entire Center list. Feedback included the price of the tickets and the fact that it appeared to be a social event. There was discussion of what would draw members—and members of the local arts community to attend. One idea was to focus on show-and-tell events and/or artists talks. (See notes below about additional discussion of the nature of the program.)

Membership. The committee needs to analyze the nature of the Book Arts membership, why they are members, what they value, the support they need, etc. This highlights the need to re-establish a Membership committee.

Rivanna Reconnaissance launch. Most participants have already finished their printing, and the cover cloth has been done. There was discussion of the having the event at the Lewis and Clark Center at Darden Towne Park. After consideration (lack of funding, need to refine the content and focus of the event), it was decided to tell the staff at the Lewis and Clark Center that plans for holding the event there are postponed.

There was discussion of the possibilities of “taking the show on the road”: for example, by exhibiting the book at the Lewis and Clark Center, at a book store (perhaps New Dominion), as a part of Riverfest, etc.

There was a wide-ranging discussion of the essential focus of the Program. The major costs of the Program are covered by the Virginia Humanities. This support is $100,000 per year, which covers the rent, Garrett Queen’s salary, and some other expenses. The Program’s projects and activities are under the direction of the Program’s members, which means they must decide on course offerings, special projects, and events and must carry out those activities among themselves. That means that among other things, the work required by proposed activities must be carried by members. At this time the total membership is roughly 45 members, with only about 20 who carry out these responsibilities. The focus of this activities must include outreach and inclusion of not only the local arts community but also the wider community.
Classes. Some classes are filling well, but some are not meeting the minimum. This needs to be reviewed and analyzed by the Education Committee.

Committees. It was clear to the committee members that the group’s committees need to be re-invigorated, and in some cases re-established. These committees should be Education, Events, and Membership, plus adding Outreach and Promotion.

Next meeting. Although the Coordinating Committee usually meets only every other month, it was decided that it was important to meet sooner. The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 2, at 5:00.