

Annisquam Sewing Circle
Minutes

January 10, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

The meeting opened with guest speakers Ed Becker and Dave Pearce providing an update on the Willmann Project. The Project is an effort headed by the Essex County Greenbelt to acquire the 4-acre Willmann property on Lobster Cove for conservation. Ed Becker spoke on behalf of Greenbelt and Dave Pearce on behalf of Mt. Adnah Cemetery, which abuts the property. Key points included:

- Acquiring the property will prevent it from future development forever. If it is not saved, it is estimated that the land could be developed with three to five properties.
- Greenbelt has partnered with Mt. Adnah Cemetery, which will allow the cemetery to expand beyond the 15 to 20 years of space currently available. It will also preserve the landscape and provide a path for safe passage along the dangerous curve at the beginning of Leonard Street.
- The property, appraised at \$1 million, is being offered for conservation for \$650,000. To date, \$400,000 has been raised. We have until April 1st to come up with the remaining \$250,000. This community effort is spearheaded by a "neighbors and friends" committee comprised of Lee Cunningham, Bob Wallis and George Bird.
- Contributions can be made through either Greenbelt or Mt. Adnah donations. Donations can also be in the form of a pledge that can be paid over two years.

Treasurer Nancy Martin reported that we have \$21,697 in the bank. The amount of money raised by the Christmas Fair is about the same as last year.

Deb Bird thanked and congratulated everyone for a successful Christmas Fair.

Mimi Emmons reported that the Finance Committee met and distributed a report with the Committee's recommendations. Given that the Circle's goal is to serve the Village and the immediate Annisquam community, the Committee recommended that this year we make a substantial, \$10,000 donation to the Willmann Project and two \$500 donations - one to the Cape Ann Symphony classroom program and one to The Open Door. The committee will send a letter to those we usually support letting them know that this is an unusual year and next year our usual distribution of gifts will resume.

A motion to accept the Committee's recommendations was made and accepted. There was discussion about whether to donate the \$10,000 to Greenbelt, Mt. Adnah or both. It was put to a vote with overwhelming approval to donate through a Mt. Adnah donation.

Lee Cunningham reminded us that the Sewing Circle donation does not negate the need for individual donations. Deb reminded everyone that a meeting about the project is being held at the Village Hall on January 19th and asked everyone to spread the word and be an ambassador for the project. Also, if the project falls through, donations will be returned.

It was reported that Bonnie Angus broke her leg while visiting Montana. Paul Littlefield is at Mass General, and Joyce Novak is in good spirits, but very frail. She still is not home. Christine Lundberg thanked everyone for the cards while she was recovering and said that they do indeed provide "sunshine."

There was nothing new for Scholarship or Membership or Publicity.

The Good Neighbors dinner is on January 21st.

It was decided to approve the November meeting minutes at the February meeting due to time constraints today. They will be posted on the website for everyone to read prior to the February meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. to a tea hosted by Ellen Stone, Martha Hooper, Lida Bernard and Liz Sheehan.