

Annisquam Sewing Circle  
Meeting Minutes  
November 7, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 1:32

The minutes from the October meeting were read and approved by unanimous vote without any corrections.

Treasurer Nancy Martin reported that we have \$11,038.72 in bank, much of which will be used for the Christmas Fair. She is still collecting dues if anyone needs to pay.

Judy Gustin reported that a condolence card was sent to Barbara Campbell's suggested instead of the Village Hall Library, we consider a donation either Cape Ann Animal Aid or Hyde Family Hospice charities suggested by her family. It was put to a vote. The majority voted to donate to the Library. A motion to donate \$50 to the Library was unanimously approved.

Anne Sinkinson, Membership, received a very nice letter from new member Annie Storr. She will miss the next few meetings due to teaching obligations but will be helping at the Christmas Fair.

There was a question about whether we make or purchase coffee for Christmas Fair workshop days. It's a combination of both. Whoever signs up for the day decides, as we do have an urn.

Mimi Emmons, finance, reported that to date we have two requests for money and assume there will be more in the next couple of months. The Finance Committee will meet right after New Years to decide how to distribute money raised.

Debra Michal, Publicity, is sending information about the Christmas Fair to the usual publications and news outlets. Posters are being printed, including new ones for the sandwich boards. Volunteers are lined up to help her distribute the posters in the local area.

Carolyn Rogers had nothing to report for Scholarship.

Suzanne Brown, reported that the blog has been updated with a teaser to get people interested in the Christmas Fair. She asked that we share it with people who we think will be interested in attending the Fair, and also share the event on our Facebook page.

Deb Bird shared a description of the first Sewing Circle fair, which she found in the "About" section of the website. It was held in March 1846 in the concert hall of the school house and a "success, as \$33 was expended on the church, which seems to have become the neediest object."

Gigs Cunningham reported that the Good Neighbors is hosting a talk about making your home safe and preventing falls from 2 to 3 p.m. before next Monday's tea.

Deb Bird gave a brief overview of what happens during the Christmas Fair Prep Week. Monday through Thursday is focused on getting greens ready and Friday is set up. She encouraged everyone to attend as much of the week as possible.

Stevie Neal asked that you let her or Bonnie Angus know as soon as possible if you want to order a large wreath. Hellebores, which bloom in the winter, will be available again this year. They sold well last year so we will have more this year.

Craft Table Chair, Gigs Cunningham, asked that we each contribute two or more crafts. Knit items sell well, especially washable wool items. Please include special instructions, a price, and a note as to whether you want back if does not sell. Gigs has tags if you need them.

Crafts can be dropped off at her house anytime, or email her and she will come and get them. The sooner, the better!

Gourmet. Each member is asked to bring at least one homemade item attractively wrapped and labeled, ideally

Jewelry. Check your jewelry and bring in any that you are ready to get rid of!

Grabs. Every person is asked to bring three wrapped items that cost under \$5, one adult male, female and pet. We still have enough grabs for children. Grabs sell for \$2.

Bows. Judy Gustin is retiring as the "bow person." Deb Bird asked if someone would be willing to host bow making workshop where those interested can learn and then make them at home. We need about 175 bows, which will be hard to make without a workshop. Suzanne Brown volunteered. Deb will send out email with the workshop date. Liz Sheehan volunteered a second in night, if needed.

Baskets. Last year gift baskets sold and all agreed that we should sell them this year. Last year baskets were packaged onsite using items donated by members. It was agreed to use the same approach this year.

Luncheon. Mimi Emmons, Pippy Giuliano, Joline Hentschel and Connie Mason will cook once again this year. Members were asked to sign-up to bring salad, cooked chicken or pies and self-address a postcard that Connie will send to reminder of what members volunteered to bring.

Connie Mason proposed that we increase the luncheon price from \$17 to \$18. There was unanimous agreement. Pre-ordered casseroles will increase from \$15 to \$16 and can be picked up Thursday. Linette is coordinating reservations, which should be made ahead of time, and collecting checks. There is a luncheon sign-up sheet.

Deb Bird distributed a card and asked members to list three items they would like to purchase the Fair and asked members to share them. We also brainstormed items and ideas for what we want to see at the Fair. She once again stressed the importance of "gift-style" packaging for the gourmet table, as people often look at buying these items as gifts and they fly off the table when they are beautifully packaged.

She also suggested trading with someone if you can't make a crafts or talking to Deb or Donna Caselden.

Deb told members to look for email from the Gourmet Table chairs and to respond and let them know what you're bringing.

There will be a wreath decorating tutorial on Monday of prep week. Be sure to come that day if you are interested.

Today's teas Hostesses are Wendy Banks, Emily Murphy, Joline Hentschel and Nancy Davis.

The meeting adjourned 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Vicki Bourneuf