

**Annisquam Sewing Circle**  
**Tuesday, September 19, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 1:36 p.m.

Co-president Deb Bird welcomed new members Lyn Fenollosa and Sandra Caniff, who is not here today. Deb asked members to update incorrect information on last year's directory, which was circulated. She noted that the directory is not printed yet due to a number of late changes and a prospective new member coming aboard.

Treasurer Nancy Martin distributed copies of annual report. The Circle's fiscal year ended close to where year started, with about \$600 more in the bank. The Christmas Fair netted \$11,329.25, about the same as last year. The Plant Sale netted \$1,503.08, a little less than last year. Bonnie Angus may still have money to send in from plants she sells directly to clients. Dues, which are \$5, were still being collected. The motion to accept the Treasurer's report was seconded and approved.

Committee Reports:

Sunshine. Joyce Novak just got out of hospital and is at home. Deedy Sargent fell yesterday and broke a hip. She's at Beverly Hospital. Vicki Dangelmayer has been home since the end of August and likes visitors and calls to chat. All of these members can use cards and good cheer!

Membership. Martha Hooper proposed Mary Flaherty, who just bought a condo on Leonard Street, for Active Membership. Mary has been active with Annisquam Village Players on and off for 35 years, sews and volunteers at the Sea Fair among many other activities and interests.

Annie Sinkinson reported that we have 54 active members and room for one more member. Ellen Stone has moved to Associate Membership, which is now full. Grace Murray has moved to Honorary Membership. Expectations for each membership category were reviewed. It's important that sponsors make sure potential new members are well aware of what is expected for the Christmas Fair and Plant Sale, and also act as a mentor during the first year of membership.

Hospitality. Dottie Roeske reported that today's tea was provided by the officers and committee chairs. Sign-up sheets for Meeting Teas and Christmas Fair Prep were circulated.

Finances. Sue Willis thanked Mimi Emmons, who has been head of Finance for 10 years. She's looking forward to help from Mimi and for recommendations from members for Annisquam charities that need/want money this year. The goal is to complete all donations by spring so we know how much is left for scholarships.

Publicity – Deb Bird asked for volunteers to help Deb Michel distribute Christmas Fair posters. Lyz Bennett offered to help her.

Scholarship – Carolyn asked members to let rising Annisquam seniors who are heading to college know that scholarships are available. Also ask them to support Sewing Circle events.

Website. Suzanne Brown reported that almost everyone's photo is on site. More information about what is required from members for the Christmas Fair and Plant Sale has being added to the site. Suzanne also reviewed how to login to the website.

Deb Bird asked members to report anything new and close to home of interest to others.

The Arts & Crafts Fair is only two and a half weeks away. This year there are 39 artisans participating. Galleries will be in the Leonard Club, not a tent, so everything will be in one place. Members were asked to volunteer to work a shift, and everyone is invited to the preview party Friday evening, October 6<sup>th</sup>.

Germaine Fritz, talked about Hurricane Irma's impact on the British Virgin Islands and the overwhelming loss and need created. She shared personal stories about people she knows and asked members to consider making donations to help with the rebuild effort and those in need.

Deb Bird led a discussion about pros and cons of this year's Plant Sale, the merits of going forward with it in the future, and moving it back to Memorial Day.

- Jackie Littlefield thought holding it the week before Memorial Day is a good idea because there are so many other plant sales Memorial Day weekend. Stevie Neal said holding the sale the week before Memorial Day did not pose a problem for getting inventory.
- Mother's Day helped boost sales.
- The experiment with container sales was not started early enough.
- Perhaps we should channel energy to other things.
- Tea cups were a huge success. One thought is to collect them throughout the year and have a workshop to assemble them the day before the sale.
- The Bake Sale only made \$500 because there was not as much to sell as in past years. The bake goods we had sold well.
- Sue Willis compared the bottom line and effort required for the Plant Sale to the Annual Meeting Auction. Comparatively, the Plant Sale is a lot of effort for a small amount of revenue.

It was proposed that we set up a committee to explore alternative options and possible changes to sale.

#### Christmas Fair

Maureen volunteered to head up the bow-making committee and is looking for volunteers to help her. She would like to start making them earlier this year and have them all finished before the Fair Prep week begins.

Kate Meader has offered to take charge of the Christmas Fair workshops – if you have ideas for the workshops, please let her know.

Cynthia Borghesani proposed a reprint of the cookbooks. It's an "evergreen" product and a steady seller because of tourists. Many thought it is worth considering and will be explored. Cynthia has promised to get pricing for a reprint and will report back at the next meeting.

Deb Bird asked members to think of ways to continue to promote friendship and congeniality, which is one of the Circle's original and important intentions. To that end, we played a fun game of "mystery history" trying to match anonymous member clues with member names.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m to Tea hosted by the Board and Committee Chairs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki Bourneuf