

September 11, 2012

President, Carol Stearns welcomed the membership to the first meeting of the year. The minutes were amended and approved setting the record straight regarding committee chairpersons. Our newest member, Jennifer Gabbay received a warm welcome.

Treasurer, Nancy Martin distributed the annual financial report and reminded us that a cushion of 15 thousand dollars is her bottom line. The report was accepted by a unanimous vote.

Finance chair, Mimi Emmons characterized the Circle as a most unusual organization: one that buys, makes then gives away its profits. Members were asked to contact Mimi with recommendations for charities in need. Mimi should receive a letter of request from the charity which will make a follow up presentation at a Sewing Circle meeting. Funds will be dispersed after the New Year.

Martha Hooper, membership chair reported that the Circle has 55 active members and proposals for two new members. Tartie Bishop presented Joyce Novak. Joyce now lives in Annisquam year round. She is a gifted artist who would be a great asset to our group. A vote approved Joyce's membership. Betsey Colby presented Vicki Bourneuf for consideration. Vicki volunteers at the Exchange and she is handy with yarn, needles and thread. Vicki won unanimous approval.

Debra Bird wondered about people who would like to join the Circle but have a work commitment or members who might begin working again. This opened the discussion for a category of business associate which would require a change in the by-laws. An associate has been a member in good standing for 10 years. Associates are not required to attend meetings but should participate in Circle events. People were encouraged to contact the president with their ideas and opinions. After meeting, the executive committee will report back with the pros and cons around this issue.

Germaine Fritz, publicity chair reminded us that the Circle Christmas fair has a lot of competition but the website is an effective way to advertize our wares.

Sue Willis heading up the scholarship committee received a thank you letter from Sean Kennedy, last year's scholarship recipient. Scholarships are available to high school students residing in Annisquam who intend to further their education.

As hospitality chair, Debra Marsten talked about the finer points of tea hosting. Web liaison Suzanne Brown talked about the pros and cons of the present set up. Jen Gabbay offered to help Suzanne set up a more convenient system.

The meeting was adjourned to a lovely tea hosted by the officers: Nancy Martin, Joan Collier, Ann Mannle, Carol Stearns and Pippy Giuliano

Respectfully submitted,
Pippy Giuliano
Recording Secretary