

December 11, 2012

President, Carol Stearns called the meeting to order by asking treasurer Nancy Martin for the financial report thus far. The fair grossed 16,657 dollars with a net of 11,238. Expenses ran about 4,419 dollars. The fair surpassed last year's take by approximately 1,000 dollars attributed to the addition of jewelry and the silent auction. The treasury is at a healthy weight of 28,3072 dollars

The break down of the fair is as follows:

Christmas Fair 2012		Christmas Fair 2011		+/-
Gross	16,657	Gross	15,200	+ 1457
Net	11,238	Net	10,765	+ 473
Crafts	1734	Crafts	1757	- 23
Gourmet	1015	Gourmet	709	+ 306
Greens	8117.50	Greens	8638	- 521
Wine	127	Wine	120	+ 7
Cookbooks	180	Cookbooks	540	- 360
Grabs	195	Grabs	175	+ 20
Baskets	825	Baskets	1180	- 355
Casseroles	840	Casseroles	490	+ 350
Lunch	1140	Lunch	1260	- 120
Jewelry	606			
S. Auction	485			

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Before the membership meeting, committee chairpersons met to give their reports and brainstorm for next year's Christmas Fair. Publicity was thought to be the best ever. However the print will be enlarged on the boards for improved readability. Some remarks overheard at the fair indicate that the village is confusing to navigate and the Village Hall not easily located. Another comment crowned us the most beautiful fair on Cape Ann.

In terms of publicity for next year a site interview by Joey Ciaramitaro of Good Morning Gloucester during the week of wreath making would make a nice feature and great publicity.

Families who have received scholarships are probably not aware that the fair is the Circle's major fundraising event. In fact, an information board noting the charities that benefit from Sewing Circle donations should be on display.

Without mincing words; "Now that we have made it let's think about giving it away." Mme. President turned the meeting over to the financial chair, Mimi Emmons. The Circle donated 16,000 dollars to charities last year. Mimi read from a list of charities to be considered this year. The finance committee consisting of the officers with input from Stevie Neal and Sue Willis will meet to "give away as much as possible". The treasurer likes to keep a cushion of 15,000.

President Stearns hopes to launch us into the 21st century through improved technology use. Suzanne Brown in her most artistic fashion did an outstanding job of posting craft and auction items for sale and other information highlighting our fair. Working with Jen Gabbay, Suzanne will establish a community bulletin board private for member use. The President will help anyone wishing to brush up on their computer skills. There's no turning back – this is the way of the future. Help is available.

Other business:

Jackie Littlefield reported that 550 unwrapped children's gifts were collected for Wellspring at the cocktail party hosted by the Littlefields, Whitlock/Neals and Hoveys at the Village Hall. All members of the Sewing Circle and their spouses were invited.

Stevie Neal made a request on behalf of HAWC for children's gifts. HAWC services 23 towns and they are in dire need of gifts this year. Rev. White reminded the membership about the mitten tree for children of Pathways. A donation of children's clothing is also welcome.

The meeting was adjourned to a lovely holiday tea hosted by Stevie Neal, Anthea Brigham, Linette French and Maureen Quine.

Respectfully submitted,
Pippy Giuliano
Recording Secretary