

February 12, 2013

President Stearns called the meeting to order for the stalwart members who brave the winters here in Annisquam.

Treasurer, Nancy Martin reported that \$15,656.80 remains in the coffers after the distribution of monies to this year's recipients. The report was voted on and approved. Thank you notes received from the charities were circulated and an email thank you was acknowledged from Maggie Rosa representing the Gloucester Education Foundation.

Committee reports:

Joan Collier, Chair of the Sunshine Committee seems to be basking somewhere warm so Carol will send a get well card to Jaye Whittier.

Sue Willis reported that no one yet has applied for scholarship money. She clarified that \$1000 is granted to Annisquam students who go on to college or a vocational school.

President Stearns briefly mentioned the idea of changing the by-laws to include a category for working members. Discussion and further exploration was tabled until a majority of members return to Annisquam.

New Business:

President Stearns turned the meeting over to Jen Gabbay who briefed the membership on the future development and design of the Circle's website. It will be similar in appearance and function to the Brookwood School's website and blog. Jen talked about the nuts and bolts of the design elaborating on 10 features such as; a newsletter, calendar, community announcements, Annisquam community projects and events, member bios, photos and relevant videos. This would be the perfect way to preserve conversations with our local history buffs; namely Carol Pearce and Chandler Davis. It was noted that John Perry and Ester Pullman might have historically significant items to contribute. This endeavor is rich in possibilities. Rest assured that folks without internet service will not be forgotten.

On a related topic, bringing us all to a functional level of computer use was discussed.

Tutorials will be scheduled and a cooperative sharing of knowledge will be organized. .

Mary Pope made a tongue-in-cheek suggestion for a new committee:

The Annisquam Sewing Circle Geek Squad. Never fear, 1:1 tutorials can be planned as needed. Jen did a remarkable job tackling this complex subject and presenting it with such clarity. We thank Jen Gabbay and Suzanne Brown for taking on this project.

Following Jen's presentation a spontaneous discussion arose concerning Village safety related to storms and resulting power outages. On February 9th, we experienced a snow storm that caused drifting of up to 24 inches leaving some residents stranded in their homes without power for up to 15 hours. Previously, under the leadership of Dave Pearce, Ron Beck and John Moskal a Community Emergency Response Team was formed with headquarters at the Village Hall. Circle Members questioned the effectiveness of operating in a building without power and the discussion steered toward the acquisition of a generator. President Stearns recalled a \$500 donation by the Exchange to the Village Hall Association earmarked for a generator. President of the Village Hall Association, Patsy Whitlock detailed a bit of the plan already in place for a neighborhood response. After some suggestions, members thought it best to stay in touch with neighbors and offer assistance as needed. Having a list of people with generators would be helpful. Also, a list of people willing to snow blow or shovel should be composed and perhaps posted on the Circle's future webpage. Recommendations for emergency preparedness can be found on the Annisquam Yacht Club website.

According to Patsy Whitlock, the idea of a generator at the Village Hall has stalled over the years for various reasons; money and practicality to name a few. Thirty of the thirty-two Circle Members present voted in approval of a generator for the Village Hall. The Circle will send a letter to the Village Hall Association requesting a generator. Deborah Bird volunteered to investigate emergency measures already in place in the Village.

The meeting was adjourned to a lovely Valentine's Day inspired tea hosted by: Mary Pope, Daphne Papp, Annie Sinkinson, Susan Crotty and Jaye Whittier

Respectfully submitted,
Pippy Giuliano
Recording Secretary