

President Carol Stearns brought to order the Oct 1st, 2013 meeting of the Annisquam Sewing Circle.

Treasurer Nancy Martin announced that there is \$17,188.76 in the Circle account and that to date, \$210 of this year's membership dues have been collected. Dues for active members is \$5 and for associates, \$10.

A warm greeting was given to two new members, Deborah Mitchell and Gigs Cunningham, presented by Membership Chair Martha Hooper.

Corresponding Secretary Joan Collier reported that she has sent a card to Claire Norton . Caregivers are needed and it was suggested that Good Neighbors Coordinator Janet McAveeny be contacted for recommendations. Cards were also sent to Bob Fritz , Germaine's husband, and to Bob Borghesani, Cynthia's husband. Joan inquired about sending email cards and several members felt that they were not as emotionally connected and uplifting as handwritten cards.

Deborah Bird presented a poster for the Arts and Crafts Fair on Oct. 11th, that will feature 40 artists, half of which are new. Members are encouraged to spread the word via email. The poster will be emailed to all members. Tickets are still available for the preview party on Friday, Dec. 6.

Pinecones are requested by Bonnie Angus for the greens, but please not the long skinny ones!

Suzanne Brown shared her grape wreaths and fire starters for the crafts table at the Fair. She will organize a workshop for members to make these. Deb Marston suggested decorating the sides of fabric shopping bags and presented one with a painting on the side that she had won at an auction. Gigs Cunningham showed a quilting piece that could be made into a pillow, and a "Marge Ross" potholder that she had sewn. Apparently the potholder has been a good seller at past fairs. If anyone would like to use the Sewing Circle sewing machine, Annie Sinkinson has it.

In an enthusiastic talk, speaker Lara Lapionka, founder of the Backyard Growers Association, presented slides and information about the work she has been doing to bring vegetable gardens to the moderate and low income families in Gloucester. People are trained to build, plant, tend and harvest gardens for a source of fresh vegetables. Currently partnered with the city and several organizations all elementary schools in Gloucester now have gardens as well as many families scattered throughout the city.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Ebeling for Pippy Giuliano