

Annisquam Sewing Circle Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

The meeting called to order at 1:34 p.m.

Deb Bird welcomed new member, Ellie Loring, and announced that Lara Lepionka, Executive Director of Backyard Growers is our guest speaker. Backyard Growers is always looking for volunteers if anyone is interested.

Treasurer Nancy Martin reported that we recently received \$10.67 in interest and currently have \$25,589.28 in the bank. The Treasurer's report was accepted by unanimous vote.

Because Sunshine Chair Emily Murphy was not present. Deb asked if anyone needed "sunshine." Steve Saylor's father recently died.

Annie Sinkinson, Membership Chair, reported that there has been a lot of movement since the last meeting. Nancy Davis and Pam Saylor moved to Associate Membership, and Alden Nichols, Jill Carter and Holly Perry are now Honorary Members. We currently have 52 Active Members, the maximum is 55; 18 Associate Members, the maximum is 20; and 5 Honorary Members.

Hospitality Chair, Dottie Roeske, reported that today's tea hostesses are Carolyn Roy, Wendy Banks, Pat Makin, and Lyz Sheehan.

Instructions for Tea Hostesses are going to be posted on the cabinet door in the kitchen and also on the Hospitality page of the website. Ten days before each meeting, Dottie will send a reminder and instructions to the meeting's Tea Hostesses

Sue Willis, Finance Chair, noted that in the past, we have always voted on contributions to charities in January. Starting this year, we're going to vote after we know the number of scholarships being awarded so can possibly give more money to charities. This year, we will vote in April so please let Sue know in March of any groups that should be added to the list. Sue will also email a list of charities who have requested money so that members can give feedback. So far, the list includes:

- Gloucester Education
- Wellspring
- Gloucester High Docksiders
- Mt Adnah Cemetery
- The Village Hall
- North Shore Symphony Youth Outreach
- Annisquam Village Library
- Annisquam Village Church
- Backyard Growers
- Kestral Education

The effort for building the new YMCA was suggested; Sue is adding it to the list.

Scholarship Chair, Carolyn Rogers, reported that we will probably have four scholarship applicants. She will move up the date for reaching out to potential applicants from May 1 to April 15 so that fits better with the Finance Meeting.

Suzanne Brown talked about workshops for the Christmas Fair. The first workshop was making gift tags at Lynn Fenollosa's, which now need to be packaged. The suggested price is 10 for \$4. The second workshop, which was a smaller group, made fire starters, which also need to be packaged. Time to do this will be scheduled before a regular meeting.

Suzanne has added Dottie's tea instructions to Hostess page on the website. It's a PDF that can be downloaded and printed. Suzanne also presented several Christmas Fair craft ideas for generating money, including:

- Decorative string for boxwood trees
- Gourmet table item packaging, such as Swedish woven baskets for goodies.
- Bookmarks made of elastic cord. Suzanne has ordered grommet maker so can make them with fabric and leather.
- Clever page markers for book pages that can be packaged and sold for small gift
- Cat toys and small origami projects

Suzanne also reported that Grace Murray has offered to show interested members how to knit her special hats. If anyone is interested, let Suzanne know. Jill Lovejoy and Connie Mason have also offered to show members how needlepoint and make small ornaments. It was also noted that Coveted Yarn offers knitting courses and group knitting.

Deb called for new and exciting "Close to Home" ideas, which included:

- Deb Bird's announcement of Donna Caselden's exhibit in Boston at 160 State Street and reception from 5-8 p.m. Saturday night, February 17.
- Carolyn Roy's best practice for cooking broccoli by heating for it for 1.5 minutes on Corel plate dabbed w few spoons of water
- Pippy Giuliano's recommendation of Peter Herbert and Peter Joule's exhibit at Jane Deering's gallery,
- Deb also shared a new emergency feature on the iOS 11 for the iPhone. Push the sleep/wake button five times and the phone will call 911 directly.
- Susan Willis highly recommends the Georgia O'Keefe exhibit at the Peabody Essex Museum.
- Judy Junker recommends ice grippers for shoes, which can be purchased in hardware stores.

After a mini-break, Deb introduced Lara Lepionka from Backyard Growers, which provides community and backyard gardens for people of Gloucester and beyond. One of their goals is to make healthy fresh food more available to low- to moderate-income families. Lara shared how the organization has grown since she was last here in 2014 and highlighted some of their exciting projects. More information about how to get involved and current activities can be found on their website www.backyardgrowers.org.

The meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m. to another delicious tea.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki Bourneuf

