Executive Meeting – Maritime Modern Quilt Guild

January 28, 2019

**Present:** Andrea (host), Christine, Jeanette, Amanda, Sarah, Mary.

**Regrets :** Aimee.

**Review of Bylaws**

The bylaws were last updated in 2017. They contain no reference to a membership cap. The members of the Executive voted for a cap, but the bylaws were not amended at that time, so the cap is contrary to the bylaws. Changes to the bylaws must be voted on by the members but the bylaws do not specify how many have to be present for it to be valid. We will give notice in advance if a change to the bylaws is required. Proxy voting is permitted, and members can vote by proxy and by email or other electronic communication within 24 hours of the meeting.

The fees are written in to the bylaws and we do have to raise the fees as the guild grows and expenses increase. The membership will have to vote on a fee increase. It would be better to remove dollar values from the bylaws. Christine will announce the proposed change in the next newsletter and she has already posted the bylaws on the members Facebook page.

As the group grows, we need a larger meeting space and we cannot use a smaller room in the expectation that only a small percentage of the members will attend meetings. Capacity at sew ins and workshops is also an issue. We already plan to move to a bigger sew in space and workshop capacity can be addressed by having more sessions of each workshop whenever possible. Often instructors want to limit the size of the group so that all students can get enough attention.

**Social Media**

The social media post remains vacant, but Sarah is still doing the job in addition to her duties and swap and challenge co-ordinator. The Facebook and Instagram accounts are very active, but the blog has fallen into disuse. Sarah thinks a static website would be more useful and user-friendly. She can set it up for us. It will be public, unlike the blog, which is in accordance with the bylaws.

**Meeting Space**

The Le Brun Centre in Bedford is booked for meetings starting with March 7. Monthly meetings will continue there the second Thursday of the month until June 13. This will give the membership the chance to see how well the location and the space work for us all. Christine has visited the space and is confident that it is an open, flexible space that will allow for good social environment and allow us to set up stations for swaps, possibly invite local vendors for a pop-up shop.

**Program Calendar**

We are working toward filling in programs for the year so that the whole thing can be posted on the members’ Facebook page. We reviewed the topics suggested on the member survey. Top topics were colour theory, quilt math, quilt business, curves, co-ordinating prints, basic machine care. The block lottos were very popular and Sarah is planning two for this year. The first will be announced at the February meeting and launch in March. She might add one more if the interest is there. Swap ideas mentioned on the survey include zip pouches, mug rugs, minis and table runners.

**Retreat April 4-7 at White Point**

30 members are booked for the retreat so far. People on the membership wait list will be given the chance to sign up. Amanda will create a Facebook page for volunteers and is in the process of lining up some organizing help. The swag bag sign-up will go out soon on the members’ Facebook page.

**Membership Dues**

Dues are due at the end of January. So far 16 members are outstanding. Amanda will send out a reminder.

**Fall Workshop**

Christine has been in touch with Corey Follet of the Quilted Stash. He is available in October and happy to do workshops at Seamwork too, so we can share the expense of bringing him in from Newfoundland. He has offered his “Someday on Quilts” or “A Tree for Nan” patterns as a workshop and is also developing his dog portrait technique into a class which may be an option.

A high proportion of the survey respondents showed a preference for coming home with a finished project as opposed to skill building. Do we want to survey the members about choice of workshop person? Many of the individuals named on the survey are not available. For the next survey we should provide a list of available teachers while leaving space for them to add suggestions. There was a lot of interest in having Janelle MacKay of Emmaline Bags come. She is not teaching at present, but Fiona Kelly of Tangled Blossoms (based in Bridgetown) is a Nova Scotian option.

***New Business***

**Exhibit Opportunity at Quilt Canada**

Christine was approached by Carole McCarville, Executive Director of Canadian Quilt Association, inviting MMQG to have a mini-show at Quilt Canada. She is offering us 50-70 linear feet of display space. It is a generous offer because all set up and tear down will be done by them and Carole, who lives in NS, has offered to carry the work to Ottawa for us. We would need insurance which we can get by joining CQA. Membership and insurance together will cost about $300. CQA is open to both modern and traditional quilting but, has been more focused historically on traditional quilting. They want to give more attention to modern quilting which is why we have been invited to participate. We will have to discuss how work will be chosen, possibly ask local experts not in the guild to participate. Quilt Canada will be in Ottawa June 12-15 and we need to make a decision soon. The executive agreed to accept the offer.

**Charity Quilts**

Jeanette has not had many suggestions from members so far. This year’s #87Pillows beneficiary will be the Oakwood Terrace Nursing Home, Dartmouth. For charity quilts Sarah suggested the Three Wishes Project and will pitch it to the members at the February meeting. They will be happy to have as many lap size quilts as possible. Christine also suggested Quilts of Valour. Quilt Canada is having a block drive and she can deliver the blocks in person.