

Attending: Donna Blatchly, Sue Breeyear, Barbara Colgrove, Sherry Corbin, Paula Galle, Jen Kenney, Lorraine Manley, Cathy LaClair, Christina Lesperance, David Lesperance, Richard Lyons, Lori Niederer, Bonnie Palmer, Claudia Stoeffler, Jessie Swétel, Judy Taylor, Ron Turek, Gary Walz

- Cathy LaClair welcomed the group.
- Fourth of July – Participants will be given a free white umbrella to decorate for the parade walk. A signup sheet was passed. Last year, coloring pages were handed out to children along the route; it was so well received that we will design another for this year. Please contact Gisela, vtsnowgise@gmail.com for an umbrella.
- Open Studio Weekend, May 25th and 26th – The MAG gallery is number 6 on the statewide map published by the Vermont Crafts Council. Our artists are encouraged to share their creative process in the gallery, either Saturday, Sunday, or both days. So far, Carol Ann Jones will be performing on Saturday, Gary Walz will set up his lathe, Christian Schoenig will do metal work, Christian Poupart will do scrolling, Joy Choquette is doing a book signing; there may be a sewing, and a jewelry making demo. To sign up please contact either Jessie, director@miltonartistsguild.org, or Sharon, pondhousebirds@gmail.com.
- Participating and all artists are reminded to bring business cards and stock to sell. All art sold at the Spring Open Studio will be sold through the Gallery as usual. Cathy said that she's seen anywhere between 250 – 300 visitors to her studio during past Open Studio Weekends.
- Cathy went over some proposed bylaws changes and asked for member feedback; the finalized document will be sent to members.

The first significant change would be to section 2.1, our mission statement, in removing the word 'visual' from 'arts', and to say 'and beyond' referring to 'Milton'. The guild has grown and its membership includes those in surrounding towns, other states, and artists in other disciplines such as writers and musicians.

The next change is to section 4.2. The current maximum number of Board members is seven; the proposed change would increase the maximum to eleven. We are looking for individuals with skills in fundraising, grants, and in QuickBooks. Please send Gisela a note if you are interested.

The board is considering changing the length of terms served, under Section 4.4; while keeping the goal of not rolling over more than a third of the board's make up with each election, but allowing for the occurrences of life changes (moving out of state, for example). The final wording will be sent out soon.

The next proposed change is to section 5.2.1., the president shall preside at 'all meetings' of MAG to shall 'preside at all Member and Board meetings' of MAG (with 'Member' capitalized per suggestion of a member present at this meeting).

The next change is to section 5.2.2., regarding the Vice President; eliminating the last section 'and serves as Chairperson of the Programs and Education Committee'. The Board is currently reviewing committee structure, as well. Whomever works on the Education Committee, not necessarily a board member, would send the application to the guidance counselor the high school scholarship program and help choose a recipient of the scholarship.

The last change would be to section 7.2., adding after regular Member meetings 'normally held every third Thursday' the phrase 'unless otherwise scheduled'.

The proposed bylaws changes will be emailed to the members and voted on at the Annual Meeting on June 20th.

- Cathy said that there was a request by a member moving out of state to keep their 25% commission. There was an open discussion about volunteer hours, tracking hour, and banking hours, and if donations to the gallery could offset volunteer time. The overall consensus was to leave the current system in place since time volunteered can be banked for the future. Also brought up was the possibility of a 'thank you' plaque, or lifetime membership. It will be brought to the board. The time spent going to this member meeting is marked toward the volunteer hours. The record keeping for hours volunteered will be moving to an online system (start date to be announced).

- 2019 Planned Events

Jessie said that there will be a Luau fundraiser in July; the committee is choosing between a couple bands. Cathy LaClair is donating decorations and games from the Rotary Club.

In August 3rd, we will host Ethan Rogati's MAG Wheels Show. It's a car show/exhibit/reception to celebrate antique cars and Milton's history of drag racing. We may have some antique cars out front, and may display a car inside the gallery walls.

The gallery will host an event for the Colchester Rotary on May 30th, Rotary after Dark. It's a fundraiser for both the Rotary and for the gallery. There will be an open bar and hors d'oeuvres. It's from 6 – 8 pm and the admission is \$10; after expenses, the Rotary will split money raised with the MAG. Rotary members have been encouraged to bring guests and our members may attend, as well.

- The Seven Daisies poll, by Seven Days newspaper, is asking for nominations. It's an online contest; be sure to vote for the guild – Deadline is tomorrow, Sunday May 19 at 5PM!
- Cathy said that the board members were challenged to raise money. Cathy did an online challenge to raise money specifically to fund Social Sundays. Please either 'share' it with your contacts, or 'invite' others. We're trying to fund the program year-round. We've had about 200 participants this past season. The monies raised will fund small art projects, free for the families, teachers, supplies, refreshments, and live music. Lorraine suggested that we ask local businesses to sponsor the program.

Show & Tell

The challenge word for this month was WET.

Sue Breeyear brought in a quilt with umbrellas and raindrops.

Cathy asked for a word for next month; BEACH was chosen.

The Annual Meeting is next month, June 20th, where we will vote on bylaws changes and for directors. The meeting will be from 6 – 8 pm, and will be potluck. Our budget will also be discussed at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Christina Lesperance