Milton Artists Guild meeting May 18, 2017

MAG Art Center 10 am – noon

Attending:

Gisela Alpert, Doris Bergeron, Donna Blatchly, Ann Bissonnette, Carolyn Beaulieu, Ann Bissonnette, Alice Charbonneau, Heidi Chamberlain, Janice DeCooman, Deborah Dolby, Claudette Eaton, Nicole Gaulette, Barry Genzlinger, Maureen Genzlinger, Mary Ann Duffy Godin, Lorraine Manley, Ray McClure, Christina Lesperance, Dave Lesperance, Jane Morgan, Linda Stech

**Meeting Length**: In January the decided to do a three month trial of extended meeting lengths, (10 – 12:30 and 5:30 to 8) in order to allow more time for show and tell. Gisela asked the members present at the meeting if the practice should be continued. The comments were:

* 5:30 was too early for some to attend, but moving the time to 8:30 was too late
* a suggestion to leave the day meetings at the new time of 10 – 12:30, but evening meetings 6 - 8
* limiting time of show and tell to 2 minutes per person

The decision was tabled until next month’s meeting.

**Website**: Videos will be added to the website, both for the group, and on personal pages, if desired. For those individual pages did not transfer from the original website, please send high resolution images to Betsy at egfinstad@gmail.com. We are making steady progress in our Forum page. This will be the platform for discussions MAG and art media related, with the goal of reducing emails. It was suggested that we add a ‘call to artists’ section to the site.

**Arts Day - Milton Elementary School:** Kindergarten teacher Scott Howard gave a brief presentation asking for volunteers for Friday May 26th. As time is of the essence, an email was sent to the members asking for participation. All materials will be supplied by the school. Ann Bissonnette added her name to the list.

**Nominations:** All positions are up for vote: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and three board of directors. Please contact *both* Deb Dolby, deborah@samplerhouse.com, and Janet Dooley, janettadesigns@gmail.com, with your nominations for these offices by May 25. The voting will take place at our Annual Meeting, Thursday, June 15th at the art center. If you cannot attend, please email them for an absentee ballot. Those ballots will be sent out the week of June 5th, and we ask that they be returned no later than Monday June 12.

**Exhibit Committee:** After two years of service, Linda Stech is stepping down as chair of the Exhibit committee. We are asking for a volunteer to step up to this position. Training and guidance will be provided. If we do not get a volunteer, we may have to discontinue the exhibit opportunities that we have made available to our members in the past. Options suggested:

* Charging exhibit venues a fee in exchange for use of the artists’ work, either paid to the Art Center, or to the exhibiting artist
* Increasing the rotation time at venues from a two-month to a three-month period
* Break down the committee chair’s responsibility into smaller share-able duties
* Do an analysis of sales at the individual sites to evaluate continued feasibility. We will definitely be keeping the town library, community gallery, and Biotek in our lineup, however. We have benefitted from the support of the town, as well as it being in line with our mission to give back to the community.

**Gallery update**: We need members for gallery coverage; just one four hour shift per month would suffice, shifts can be shared and/or split into two hour periods with a buddy. There are a total of forty shifts per month to choose from. We may have to ask for a higher commission or a donation in lieu of a shift coverage. The planning committee will meet and discuss options as well as evaluate the success of our first quarter.

The Milton Farmers Market begins on Thursday, June 8th. It was suggested that we do some art demonstrations concurrent with the market to increase exposure of the Art Center.

There was discussion at length about adding a policy regarding commission work derived as a direct result of MAG gallery exposure. This would be on the honor system, and modeled after the contracts that commercial galleries use. In effect, if such a commission is generated, it was suggested that the artist donate 10% to the MAG. It would not affect the regular sales an artist would make outside the Art Center. The example given was that if a patron requested a piece of art be made similar to one that is on display at the center, or customized, a donation should be made at the time of sale. It would not affect sales of other works made by the artist. And as per the model used by some commercial galleries, there would be a grace period following the end of the exhibit period where it would still be in effect, but no specific time was decided. The motion to add the policy was voted on an approved.

**Featured Artist of the Month**: We would like to spotlight two artists each month. The artists’ names would be randomly drawn from those who exhibit at the art center. The artists would have an opportunity to switch out art pieces to prepare for their show, and there will be a reception for guests. Since current display space is limited, more panels (on casters) will be built. The partitions can also serve double duty as temporary privacy walls during workshops.

**Cyto Expressions**: Gisela reminded the members that participating artists could bring one guest to the ceremony at Biotek. The event was to occur at 2:30 following the meeting.

**Recap of Grand Opening**: Gisela thanked all for the hard work that made the opening a success. The video will be posted on the website.

**Bylaws amendments**:

Two bylaws proposals had been sent out to members, the first on May 12, and a second on May 14 with a couple edits and to correct a formatting error between sections. A member questioned the difference because the sentence that stated ‘board meetings are open’ was removed, leaving just ‘minutes will be available’. Gisela stated that after reconsideration, the board decided to remove the statement. A member stated that wording of Section 7.3 was confusing to him and asked for clarification.

**Thank you:** Ann Bissonnette thanked everyone for their kind thoughts and the condolence card following the death of her husband.

**Show and Tell**: David brought in detailed photographs of mushrooms on a stump that he referred to as ‘ultimate recycling’

Respectfully submitted by Christina Lesperance, acting Secretary