



## Empire Quilters Board Meeting Minutes October 9, 2010

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Meeting called to order at 11:05 AM by Paula Kenney.

**Attendees:** Véronique Milliez, Mindy Wexler-Marks, Aleeda Crawley, Kitty Squire, Jennifer Bigelow, Larry Gifford, Renee Fields, Alice Brody, Mary Butler, Maxine Townsend-Broderick, Wanda Young, Mary Ellen Calamese, Anna Krassy, Beth Pile, Paula Kenney, Denise Walsh-Horowitz

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Discussed is the need for the Treasurer's Report to be published each month.

**2010–2011 BUDGET:** Questions: Can the grant money be added to the income? The budget is based on what we are aware of; projection is based on the past. The \$10,000 grant money does not mean it is in perpetuity; the grantor checks it out carefully that we adhere to the rules and regulations. We should not think it is a forever thing.

Jennifer Bigelow moved that we approve the budget as presented — *approved by the Board*. The Membership has copies and we will ask them to review it and approve it today. The Show budget has already been approved by the Membership.

**PROGRAMS:** Programs have been booked through October, 2012. The hope is that the Grant will take us through as the programs are half local people and half out-of-town. Fund raising next year with no show will increase our money. Also mentioned is the flexibility of the speakers, room wise with FIT and date flexibility.

**SPACE AT FIT:** We are at capacity; Paula Kenny and Jennifer Bigelow are talking to FIT and FIT knows how many people we have here at each meeting. They requested that we no longer use tape on the walls as they have been newly painted. Mentioned is Block of the Month which puts blocks on the wall. An announcement will be made to the Membership to be as tidy as possible. We still need additional garbage cans, but our contract states no food is allowed. Membership will be reminded to use the recycle containers outside the restroom area. Jennifer Bigelow volunteered to buy garbage bags for the meetings.

Discussed forming a committee to explore different venues for our future meetings and shows. The meetings and the show are two separate entities. We need space for a show vs. meeting. Would like someone to volunteer to be the next Show Chair and to start to look for space would be part of their responsibility. FIT has not-for-profit rates of \$35,000 p/day for the show. Not-for-profit rate is -10%.

Beth Pile discussed the guilds on Long Island that cap membership and who also have restrictions on their show — local membership — we may need to re-visit membership capping.

The population capacity of this present location is 400 maximum. Question if the outside space is included and places we have no access to use. Jennifer Bigelow stated attendance is typically 180-190 people and accommodate this amount, the room set-up is different this month with concern for safety and security, i.e. fire, etc. FIT has expressed a concern and would like us to think the Great Hall. Also discussed is the possibility of an auditorium which may be easier to find. Show and meetings are independent events. Mary Butler said that hotels are out; high schools, churches, can be explored, with attention to proximity to public transportation which is important. Our contract with FIT is up in June.

**QUILTER OF THE MONTH:** The Quilter of the Month for October is Susan Louis.

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**MEMBERSHIP:** Kitty Squire discussed members who are experiencing financial hardship and are unable to pay their yearly membership fee, specifically Helen Tiger. Discussed the issue that if a member is unable to join for financial hardship reasons, Kitty would like permission to quietly send them a membership card. This will have to be included in the Board Meeting Minutes. Jennifer Bigelow stated that this will have to be put in the By-Laws that there will be a fund that the Financial Committee can budget \$400-500 towards this. In another guilds there is a Honorium Membership, old membership, Scholarship Fund done formerly through the Board. We will need an anonymous committee to review the requests over the summer, and will let the people know in the fall. Approved Helen Tiger and Kitty Squire will tell her the Board will offer her a membership through life.

**DONATION CARD:** Renee Fields sent out more Donation Cards this past month. We have people who are making donations. Suggested that we print the names of the people who make donations, which will be optional. This may stimulate interest. We are currently receiving 10 donations per month.

**DECEMBER, 2010 MEETING:** We will be receiving many contributions of stockings and bears. We are currently accepting all items. Denise Walsh-Horowitz will be listing in the Charity Report in the Newsletter the items we will be collecting.

**WEBSITE:** We need more people to help out with local news and resources.

**AUCTION DONATIONS:** Discussion of the items so far. John McCall will be returning as our auctioneer. FIT wants details regarding the room layout for the December meeting. Larry Gifford is reaching out to vendors for donations; we have no big item as yet. The cash sale table will be available and it can probably only handle 40-50 pieces. We should try to make it so that everyone can participate not just a few members. Some of the knitters are knitting shawls, etc. No junk! We do not think there will be a problem with food. Memberships will bring in holiday cookies, etc. and there will be water and soft drinks available.

Raffle baskets — 4 to 5 people can get together for a basket how to get around the no alcohol rule. Basket of goodies can be auctioned or raffle — quilting, food, and wine will have a note in the basket to pick it up from a named person.

**TRIPS:** No trips are scheduled until 2011. Aleeda is not available on Saturdays. State of New Jersey has no shows until next year. Not sure about the Mancuso Show, Lancaster shop and the possibility of a retreat weekend. Trying not to conflict with our show. AQS is the weekend before our show. Aleeda will lay out the possibilities for next year at the December meeting.

**SHARE TABLE:** Rocks were in some of the bags with fabric the last meeting. Gloves are to be used when handling the fabric.

**FEBRUARY MEETING:** Members teaching members. Pauline Hazard will be teaching wool appliqué. Renee Fields will be teaching embroidered labels. The different groups will be set up as before.

**NEW MEMBERS:** New members are sitting with Gail Lefton. New members can join the new members table. A new member, Sue Clayton has contacted Paula Kenny and has suggested a post meeting of new comers and meet with people who are heading different groups so they can become acquainted with the different activities. Jennifer Bigelow felt it would be a great idea for people to sign up for this.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Minutes submitted by Denise Walsh-Horowitz.