

Northampton Modern Quilt Guild Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2023

Location: Rocky Hill CoHousing / 1:00–3:00

The meeting was opened by Diane Wespiser

Attendance: 21 members and 3 guests: Graham Carlson and baby Freya, Shelly Ruocco, and Marsha Odell

Caroline White (Secretary) was ill; Betsey Wolfson took minutes.

BUSINESS MEETING

Approval of Minutes for November 5, 2023

- Lee Sproull moved to approve November minutes
- Connie Lentz seconded
- Minutes approved unanimously

When you join our guild, you also become a member of National Modern Quilt Guild

They offer lots of resources. Be sure to check out:

<https://www.themodernquiltguild.com/resources/>

President's Report for 2023

Report from Diane Wespiser, outgoing President

Northampton Modern Quilt Guild board members for 2023

- Diane Wespiser, President
- Connie Lentz, Vice President. *She will continue as Vice President in 2024*
- Barbara Haugen, Treasurer
- Caroline White, Secretary. *She will continue as Secretary for 2024*
- Barbara Stroup, Board Member at Large

Barbara Haugen will be completing two years as treasurer for our guild and is turning over the reins to Debbie Lovejoy. Prior to being treasurer Barbara served as secretary for 3 years. Barbara has always been a consummate board member. She cheerfully reminds members of duties that need to be done and concerns about what financially is best for the guild and its members, (that is keeping costs reasonable), and has maintained well balanced, accurate bookkeeping. We owe Barbara Haugen a huge thank you.

Connie Lentz this past year has served as vice president. Connie's sunny disposition, insights and suggestions are much appreciated. Connie will be continuing in that role next year. Caroline White has been the guild's secretary for the past year. Her monthly minutes are done in a timely manner and are extremely complete. Barbara Stroup, even after a major move to another state, has kept the lines of communication open between the board and the Program Committee. These board members deserve a big thank you and best of all, will be continuing in their roles for next year.

This past year the guild has met online, in person at the Northampton Center for the Arts, Eli's Room, the Rocky Hill cohousing community room, and at Two Friends Quilting studio in Haydenville. We celebrated the guild's 10th anniversary party at the Northampton Center for the Arts.

During the past 10 years, we have grown from less than 10 members that are still members today, to now over 60 members.

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We had a special exhibit at the Hands Across the Valley quilt show. We made charity blocks, raffled a quilt to benefit the Nipmuck tribe that once lived in the Northampton area, as well as had mini quilt and bag challenges and a field trip to the New England Quilt Museum. The guild also held a quilting retreat at Stump and Sprouts this past fall, where 11 quilters took advantage of the time to sew, loved the peaceful scenery and were spoiled by fresh, inventive meals for three days. Unfortunately Stump sprouts will no longer be hosting retreats so the guild will be looking for new venues.

Members of the Program Committee did a yeoman's task of creating zoom meetings, workshops, and challenges, along with in-person meetings throughout our year. Thank you to Barbara Stroup, Betsey Wolfson, Martine Vanpee, and Nancy Foote for your creativity, reliability, and organization. To continue exciting programming, all members need to be part of the process by offering suggestions for speakers, meeting topics, workshops, and even possible presentations.

The Community Quilts Committee, led by Betty MacLeod, continues to create and donate quilts, and to represent our guild's goodness in the community.

Thoughts on being a guild president:

- Someone is usually there to help you
- There are always new ideas for the guild to explore (swaps, field trips, presentations, shows)
- Quilters are the nicest people
- Guild meetings are a wonderful respite from daily life
- There is always something new to learn

Thank you to all guild members for enthusiasm, participation, and continued fellowship. I've enjoyed being your president for the past two years, and it is time for another member to take this role.

Here's hoping 2024 brings us good health, happiness, and friendship.

Our lives are like quilts- bits and pieces, joy and sorrow, stitched with love.

—Diane Wespiser, President NMQG 2021-2023

We are still in need of someone to be guild president for 2024.

"It's not difficult; anyone can do it."

Maybe two people could share the job.

Community Outreach "Charity" Committee Report

Betty McLeod

Eight quilts donated to YWCA Women's Shelter Program / Domestic Violence Shelter Services

- made by Diane, Barbara Christ, Sherry, Julie, and Wonky Log Cabin group quilt

One quilt donated to Fisher House (Hospice of the Fisher Home) in Amherst /

<https://www.fisherhome.org/>

- made by Julie Bermant

Two quilt tops to Love Quilt Project / <https://www.lovequiltproject.org/>

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- The Love Quilt Project provides funds for education for South African and American children living in foster care. Growing up in foster care is challenging, and many of our children have experienced some form of abuse and/or neglect and often carry scars that need therapeutic intervention.
- 16 members made blocks and put tops together

New charity for 2024 — Quilts for Survivors / <https://www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca/>

- Through a nation-wide collective effort of volunteers, quilters from across Canada craft full-sized quilts that are then sent to survivors of the Residential School System and survivors of other trauma.
- They accept 48 x 64" tops, 16.5" square blocks, or finished quilts of any size
- Avoid fabric with themes of travel, school, or religion

We have NMQG labels if you're working on a charity quilt.

Program Committee Report

Betsey Wolfson

Program Committee passed around a sheet so everyone could suggest teachers or topics they would like us to present.

2024 Programs:

January 7 / Meeting on Zoom / 12:00-2:00

David Owen Hastings / Lecture / "**Minimal Design: Maximal Input**"

The modern quilting movement is evolving and changing, but one thing remains consistent: simple, spare design combined with thoughtful quilting make an outstanding combination.

This talk gives an overview of my process for coming up with simple graphic quilt designs, starting with stitched paper models (called maquettes). I show examples of how to translate an architectural photo into a quilt design and have many samples of mini quilts I created using this process. The techniques I present are also great for making unique modern quilt block designs. I also talk about walking foot quilting and how to break free from stitch in the ditch.

January 13 / Workshop on Zoom / 12:00 – 6:00 pm

David Owen Hastings / "**Inspired by Architecture**"

Six hours / \$57 per person

Sign up before Dec 15

See the attached flyer

Using photos of architectural elements, David will guide you through the steps to design a mini fabric quilt. We will use the quilt-as-you-go method, sewing the top pieces, batting and backing simultaneously. David will demonstrate facing your quilt, to give a more modern finish than traditional binding. Your mini quilt can be the final product (frame it, hang it, or make a pillow cover later), or it can be a test for a larger quilt.

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February 4 / Meeting, in-person / 12:00 – 2:00

At Rocky Hill CoHousing, 100 Black Birch Trail, Northampton, MA

Please carpool, if possible, and park before the stop sign.

Business meeting and Show and Tell

Followed by Lecture / **“Needles, Threads, and Tension and how they interact”**

Cathy Racine from Charlton, MA, Sewing Center

See the attached flyer.

February 22–25

QuiltCon in Raleigh, NC

March 3 / Meeting on Zoom / 12:00-2:00

Lecture and Trunk Show / **Brenda Gael Smith** / **“Quilts and Composition”**

<https://serendipitypatchwork.com.au/lectures/>

Any quilt you make is an act of design. Whether it is traditional, contemporary, modern or an art quilt, you are creating a set of marks, shapes and colours that have a connection to each other.

Drawing upon an inspiring collection of works from across the quilting spectrum, Brenda Gael Smith examines the elements and principles of design in action and highlights recurring types of quilt composition. Understanding composition provides a vocabulary for describing and evaluating quilt design and provides a foundation for developing your creative practice, whatever style of quilts you make.

Check out her "[Dreamlines](#)" project, which is still free if you sign up before the end of this year.

April 7 / Meeting in-person / 12:00-2:00

At Rocky Hill CoHousing, 100 Black Birch Trail, Northampton, MA

Please carpool, if possible, and park before the stop sign.

NMQG member **Michele Sedor** / **English Paper Piecing**

Michele will talk about her projects

Guild members who do EPP, please bring your work to show too

May are June are not yet programmed.

We would love to have new (or old) members talk about their “quilt journeys” or offer presentations about topics of interest to the guild.

Contact the Program Committee: Nancy, Martine, Betsey, Barbara Stroup

Budget report

Barbara Haugen

See next page and attached November Treasurer’s Report

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NMQG 2024 Proposed Budget.2

Barbara Haugen, Treasurer

INCOME	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL	2024 PROPOSED BUDGET	NOTES
DUES (56 members @ \$50)	\$2,500.00	\$2,342 *	\$2,800	2024 conservative estimate
Visitors Fees		\$20		
Workshop Fees	\$500.00	\$1,464 **	\$1,000	2024 conservative estimate
Scholarship Fund Donations				We don't really keep track of this separately
RETREAT		\$3,707		
Other		\$230		\$230 = \$210 for Nipmuc raffle + \$20 donation
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,000.00	\$7,763	\$3,800	
EXPENSES				
Education				
Meeting Programs	\$1,000.00	\$1,052	\$1,500	3 outside speakers @\$400 + 6 member speakers @\$50 = \$1200 + \$300 Should we re-think
Workshops	\$1,000.00	\$1,290	\$1,200	\$50 each 2-member-presenter programs?
Other				
National Dues (66-75 members)	\$840.00	\$840	\$1,320	Liberal estimate: MQG 66-75 Tier = \$1,320 ~ 56-65 Tier = \$1,122
Rental Meeting Space	\$250.00	\$150	\$100	
Insurance	\$395.00		\$500	MQG recommends general liability policy
MA Attorney General Fee	\$35.00	\$36	\$36	
New England Quilt Museum	\$100.00	\$100	\$100	
Awards/Raffles	\$250.00	\$25	\$250	\$25 per meeting x 10 meetings
Charity Quilt Supplies	\$300.00	\$46	\$300	
Domain: Blue Host	\$20.00	\$20	\$20	
Postage	\$40.00	\$76	\$50	2023 mailed anniversary bags to distant members
Zoom Renewal	\$160.00	\$160	\$160	
Website: Wix ('23 & '24 prepaid)				
Miscellaneous	\$25.00	\$54	\$50	Treasurer shouldn't have to "donate" office supplies "donate" cost of office supplies
10th Anniversary Celebration	\$450.00	\$154		N/A
DONATION - Nipmuc		\$210		N/A
Retreat - Sept 14-17	\$0.00	\$4,363		N/A - NMQG won't pay up front total
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,865.00	\$8,576	\$5,586	
NET INCOME MINUS EXPENSES	-\$1,865.00	-\$813	-\$1,786	

Checkbook balance 11/16/23	\$4,492.79
*PLUS estimated addl DUES based on Dec 2022 ACTUALS	\$900
	\$5,392.79
**PLUS estimated addl WKSP (7 x \$57 = \$399)	\$399
	\$5,791.79
MINUS estimated addl EXPENSES based on Nov & Dec 2022 ACTUALS	-\$160 Zoom Renewal fee
ESTIMATED 12/31/2023 Checkbook Balance	\$5,631.79

Dues we receive from members vs. Dues we pay MQG:			
# of Members	\$50	MQG Dues	Net NMQG Dues Income
56	\$2,800	\$1,122	\$1,678
65	\$3,250	\$1,122	\$2,128
66	\$3,300	\$1,320	\$1,980

Bank balance at end of November: \$4,492.79

At this time of year, dues money is coming in and will go to MQG in February

We have money in the bank, we should be using it. The Guild will subsidize some of the workshops. Money for the 2024 David Owen Hastings workshop is already in the bank in 2023.

Irene Roderick workshop was subsidized by the Guild

Cathy Racine Sewing machine workshop was subsidized by Guild.

National MQG charges dues to local guilds depending on number of members; not a flat fee per member.

Insurance

- We paid insurance for using space at Center for the Arts
- MQG strongly advises having liability insurance.
- Rocky Hill also has insurance / Everyone please be careful when walking around in the winter.

Meeting at Rocky Hill CoHousing

- NMQG pays \$100/year to Rocky Hill for use of Common House.
- We can continue to use the space — unless the guild gets too big.
- Suggest carpooling to Rocky Hill. Check list of members by town...
- You could park at Eastworks and carpool here.

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Why we're alternating meeting by Zoom and in person

- We want to meet in person to build community; we missed that during COVID
- Trying to have only a few Zoom meetings

Does it make sense to use a school year calendar, rather than a Jan – Dec calendar?
We're tied to national guild.

We gained 17 new members in 2023.
Reach out and welcome them!

Another way to connect — we have a Third Saturday sewing circle on Zoom.
The Zoom invitation is sent to NMQG members and is a member benefit.

Approve 2024 budget, as proposed above.

- Lee moved to approve
- Rachel seconded
- Budget **approved** unanimously

Vote for new Treasurer and At-Large Board member

Debbie Leonard Lovejoy as new Treasurer, **approved** unanimously.

Barbara Stroup as at-large Board member, **approved** unanimously.

We still don't have a nominee for President, Diane has asked seven people
You learn while doing it with the help of other Board members, past and present:

Responsibilities of President

- Presides over all monthly meetings according to a planned agenda, including the program (set by the program committee), any business items, and show and tell, so that the monthly meetings run in a smooth and timely manner.
- Designates a photographer for each meeting
- Calls for and presides over Meetings of Officers as necessary. At these meetings, guild policy and strategy may be discussed and decided upon. If such decisions require further discussion and/or a vote by specific individuals or general membership, this will be set at a board meeting, and announced at a monthly meeting
- Periodically confers with Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Program Committee to ensure that NMQG business is being followed as described in by-laws, and that NMQG is running well and according to schedule; that the Duties of the Officers are being followed.
- Sets and oversees execution of at least one measurable goal per year on NMQG improvement, through programming, increasing membership, philanthropy, or other activities
- Newly elected/incoming President must sign signature cards at M&T Bank

Connie offered to be co-president
Anyone able to join her? ...

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No one volunteered, we still have no President...

Warm Company sent us a box of batting — FREE!

Five members won batting in a drawing, with the stipulation that they will make charity quilts

- Nancy Foote
- Shelley Ruoco
- Sandy Wright
- Jessa Tower
- Michele Sedor

15 quilts are going to a charity, the Charity Committee will decide where to send

Show and Tell

ANNUAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

The Business Meeting was adjourned for our annual holiday potluck, socializing and exchange of gifts of “interesting scraps”. Thank you to everyone who made and contributed food!

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00

Respectfully submitted,
Betsey Wolfson

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A SIX-HOUR ONLINE WORKSHOP

DAVID OWEN HASTINGS

“Inspired by Architecture”

Saturday, January 13, 2024 / 12:00–6:00 P.M. ET (Six hours)



Inspired by photos of architectural elements, you will learn the steps to design a mini modern fabric quilt. David will guide you through the quilt-as-you-go method, sewing the top pieces, batting, and backing simultaneously. You'll then add texture and complexity with David's unique approach to walking foot machine quilting, where the quilting lines become a major design element. Learn to connect multiple quilted units with a great gusset join technique, then add a simple face binding for a modern finish.

David will present a Zoom lecture at the NMQG January 7, 2024, meeting.

David Owen Hastings is a modern quilter, graphic designer, print and textile artist. He creates richly layered contemporary artwork and modern minimal quilt and textile designs. For more than 20 years, David has exhibited his stitched paper artwork in galleries and juried shows. DAVIDOWENHASTINGS.COM

A list of materials and supplies list will be emailed in advance.

This workshop is a 6-hour live-stream event, conducted on Zoom, consisting of live instruction (no recording, please). You should have the current version of Zoom installed on your computer or laptop.

Cost: \$57 for NMQG members. Reply by Dec 10, 2023.

TO REGISTER: E-mail Betsey Wolfson <wolfson110@gmail.com> — AND mail your check (made out to NMQG) to Barbara Haugen, 33 Everett Street, Easthampton, MA 01027. You are registered when payment has been received. If you wish to withdraw, please find a replacement. Don't let cost keep you away. Talk to a Board member if you'd like help with payment.



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IN-PERSON LECTURE

Cathy Racine

from Charlton Sewing Center

“Needles, Threads, and Tension / How They Interact”

Sunday, February 4, 2024

Meeting begins at noon / Cathy’s talk at 1:00 P.M.

Rocky Hill CoHousing Common House

This is the original Charlton Sewing Center talk — literally thousands of people have heard it, and I still book it many times a year. This is a great presentation because it is fun! I’ll bring two posters, a giant needle, three dowels, a paper plate, and the famous “stitch” from Home Depot.

For approximately an hour, you will have many moments I call the “V8 Moments,” when something that seemed complicated becomes very clear.

The lecture includes a six-page handout with illustrations and information that is timeless and can be referred to often.

I can also provide Schmetz needle charts that are a great resource.

