**Minutes of Homer Garden Club Meeting - Jan 17th, 2021**

Gathered via Zoom

**OFFICER REPORTS**

**President K**athy welcomed members, visitors and the speaker. Over 50 participants.

Non-members encouraged to join the club using Membership application on the website.

**Special Report** Saskia Esslinger gave a brief presentation on the newly established Homer Seed Library, housed at Homer Public Library. Having received grant money from Awesome Foundation and Homer Library, she is in the process now of packaging ‘Open Pollinated’ seeds for distribution. Seeds can be ‘borrowed’, grown and returned to the Community Seed Bank. Donations are accepted, volunteers welcomed and workshops will be offered.

**Secretary** was absent, but the previous minutes are posted on the website

**Treasurer** Not much activity to report. Currently in combined accounts $18,894

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Gardeners Weekend.** Anticipating that ‘yes’ it will be happening – possibly July 17th & 18th.

Francie confirmed that the committee is ‘poised to go’ for a tour of 5 gardens. In avoidance of large gatherings – there will be no guest speaker. Masks will probably be required and other necessary precautions addressed later.

**Speakers Sal**ly reported that plans are for a March 21st Zoom meeting maybe on the subject of hydroponics. Francie Roberts is a potential speaker with knowledge and experience

**Newsletter** Thanks Paula for great articles and such a worthy publication.

**Data Base** Not a member? Please kick in your $10 and then you will get that lovely newsletter

**Baycrest Gardens**  Brenda reported a successful year thanks to a few faithful volunteers – despite the fact that it is hard to twist arms or give the challenging eye contact for recruits via Zoom. Please consider offering to help next summer.

**Social Committee** Michael was absent – so no first hand report on his wife’s five star cookies

**Plant Sale** “YES. We are going to figure it out. May not be crazy fun but we are going to have a BIG one!’ May 22nd. Keep this in mind as you plant your seeds and when your dividable perennials appear again from under the snow and ice!

**Scholarship.** The ‘Homer Garden Club Environmental Scholarship’ Application has been sent to Homer High to be offered this year. Eligible applicants will not be limited to current year High School graduates and not necessarily for college studies. An Evaluation committee will be formed if/when necessary.

**Leah Waggoner of Foundroots – (a brief synopsis)**

Farmers and retailers with a mission to develop a secure Alaskan food system and resilient northern communities by growing seed varieties adapted to the Alaskan bioregion.

Leah and her husband cleared their f ¼ acre ‘home’ lot in Haines in 2012 and began their Permaculture practice using Regenerative Techniques – low tilling and green manure etc

They have since developed almost an acre of Market Garden with a hoop house.

Their 2020 Seed Catalog offers 75 varieties, 12 of which were saved from their farm. Seeds are Open Pollinated not necessarily heirlooms – but not hybrids.

A mqjor philosophical concern for them is that we are loosing control of Seed Availability

* Nearly 93% of the diversity in our food supply is lost
* Just 12 plant crops now equal 75% of the food consumed worldwide
* 4 multinational companies own 60% of he global seed market

Leah’s very interesting powerpoint presentation provided lots of information on the When, How & What of seed saving - including special advise on being willing to sacrifice your ‘best plants’ and to avoid ‘Inbreeding’ by paying attention to recommended distancing

Details of how to access a recording of the presentation will be emailed to members.