

**Needham Garden Club Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 5, 2019**  
**(19 Board members present)**

President Nancy Agler called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. She thanked Lynne Braley for hosting the meeting, with Diana Conroy.

Recording Secretary – The minutes from the last Board meeting previously were emailed to the Board. Upon motion voted on by the Board, the minutes were approved. Mary Toran volunteered to take the minutes at the Tri-Club meeting on March 19, as the Recording Secretary will be unable to attend that meeting.

Corresponding Secretary – Corresponding Secretary Cathy MacFarlane informed the Board that the next Board meeting will be held at Cathie Cummings' home on April 2nd, and Bonnie W will co-host.

Karen T will host the May 7 Board meeting, which is the Presidents' lunch. Martha S and/or Cathy F will assist with hosting duties. This meeting is usually a potluck or brown bag event. The host(s) will assign tasks for the luncheon.

Anne C has agreed to host the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting with the "old" and "new" board members. Cathy M offered to assist with the May or June meeting if necessary.

Treasurer – The most recent Treasurer's Reports were circulated previously.

According to the January Treasurer's Report, the beginning checking account balance was \$21,019.00 and cash on hand was \$280.00, for a total of \$21,299.00. Total income for this period was \$209.00 and total expenses were \$643.15. The ending checking account balance was \$20,584.85 and cash on hand was \$280.00, for a total of \$20,864.85.

The February Treasurer's Report showed that the beginning checking account balance was \$20,584.85 and cash on hand was \$280.00, for a total of \$20,864.85. Total income for this period was \$226.00 and total expenses were \$175.00. The ending checking account balance was \$20,635.85 and cash on hand was \$280.00, for a total of \$20,915.85.

Treasurer Martha Schleck noted that there were so many attendees at the last meeting concerning sustainable gardening that the program paid for itself.

The question was raised as to whether the club's \$175 membership fee to Mass Hort permits the club any individual member benefits. Martha agreed to look into this.

Community Outreach – Debbie Wentworth circulated one sign-up sheet for the April 25 Garden Therapy at Wingate. She suggested that due to the lack of and condition of baskets, small Revere bowls, in silver and/or gold, be used for the arrangements. The club has some such bowls, but not enough. Anyone having such bowls at home should let her know; she will pick them up or they can be dropped at her house. Jane L offered to check with the Congregational Church to see if any had been left there after the wreath sale. Debbie is willing to order more, and can get a case of 48 for \$90+. *A motion was made authorizing the Community Outreach Committee to purchase more Revere bowls for the sum of slightly more than \$90; said motion passed.* It also was suggested that Jacobson's, Michaels or Christmas Tree shops may have such bowls available inexpensively.

Flower Arranging – Lyn Jekowsky stated that on May 8, from 10:30 to 12:30, a workshop will be held at Elm Bank featuring floral design and wire sculpture, led by Debbie Kraft. The price is to be determined, but will be sufficient to cover the cost of the flowers. Lyn's nephew has made 20 simple sculptures, and thus the workshop will be limited to 20 people. Participants should bring a bag lunch,

and drinks and dessert will be provided. Participants also are invited to come early or stay late to wander the gardens.

Lyn also noted that the committee would be meeting soon regarding arrangements for the annual meeting and luncheon.

Horticulture – Karen Taggart reported that the March workshop concerning preparation of plants for a standard flower show will not be held due to lack of interest.

Karen also revived further discussion about the timing and location of the annual plant sale, and the following was discussed: the Chamber of Commerce will not reduce for non-profits its newly increased pricing for membership and the sidewalk sale; the UU Church is not available on the June 1 sidewalk sale date; the Congregational Church is available on June 1, and would include use of the lawn, parking lot, restrooms, water and tables and chairs, for the cost of \$150; an alternative date of May 11<sup>th</sup> (the day before Mother's Day) was discussed; the Congregational Church is not available on May 11<sup>th</sup>; concern was expressed about the readiness of plants to be sold in May, and the possibility of selling enhanced arrangements was discussed; the sale of flats of annuals was believed to be cost-prohibitive; Diana will ask about the availability of the Congregational Church for May 18 (the Saturday before Memorial Day weekend); Karen T will check with the Town about use of the town common on May 11 or May 18; Cathy F will ask about rental and availability of the Historical Society for those dates; in addition to plants, gently used gardening books or tools could be offered for sale. It was agreed that further discussion should take place via email, and before the next Board meeting, so that a decision can be made soon. Last year's plant sale netted \$559.

Hospitality – Mary Toran stated that the Ways & Means Committee is scheduled to host the April 23 General Meeting. The menu for the Annual Meeting luncheon is set and invitations will go out soon; Mary will coordinate with Lyn J re the color scheme. Mary needs a check for \$250 to secure the room at the Needham Golf Club for the luncheon.

For the Tri-Club meeting on March 19, NGC has been asked to provide some food, such as cookies and fruit. Mary will coordinate with members to provide same.

Membership – Bonnie Waters circulated contact information for new member Isabell Wells. Martha will follow up with Isabell regarding the next meeting, as an informal mentor. It was noted that Isabell should have paid only half of the annual dues because she joined the club after January. It was suggested that since she has already paid a full year's dues, next year she pay only half.

Newsletter – All agreed that the most recent newsletter was very well done. The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Nominating – Lynne Braley and Anne Carlson shared that emails had been sent to the Board setting forth the proposed officers, committee chairs and committee assignments. Committee chairs were encouraged to hold meetings and shepherd others to be "in training" for taking over chairing of the committee in the future. It is hoped this will aid in inclusiveness and boost confidence of members in their ability lead a committee. It was noted that all co-chairs or tri-chairs are Board members and can attend Board meetings.

The Social Media and Yearbook Committees have been combined; it is hoped this will make it easier for newsworthy items and photos to be shared and published in the club's various media.

Following discussion, it was confirmed that the list of proposed officers and committee chairs will be presented to the club at the General Meeting in April. Presentation of the Board members at the April meeting is required under the bylaws; presentation of the committee assignments will be done at the

same time as a courtesy. Per the bylaws, the club votes on the slate of officers and committee chairs at the annual meeting in May.

Program – No update.

Publicity – No update.

Ways and Means – Jane Lischewski will follow up with the Congregational Church about a missing bin of containers, possibly left behind after the wreath and arrangement sale.

Social Media – Lyn J asked for photos for the club’s FB page, along with a brief description to go along with the photo(s) — for example, photos of recent club events with the relevant committee providing a brief description of the event depicted in the photo.

Nancy reported that the website now has more gardening hints, in addition to the monthly tips. She also asked that photos of flowers or plants taken during members’ travels be shared for posting on the website.

The answer to the crossword puzzle appearing in the most recent newsletter is on the website. If additional crosswords appear in future issues, it was suggested that a line stating that the answer is on the website be added, so as to encourage more traffic to the website.

Yearbook – Cathie Cummings stated that she will meet with Trish Cruikshank concerning the Yearbook, as Trish will be taking over that task.

Cathie wants to move some of the Yearbook information to the website, to make the Yearbook more readable and more relevant, and also to reduce the number of pages to further the club’s green initiative. Nancy offered to find out from the GCFM what it requires be in a club’s Yearbook. The following members agreed to meet as a group with Cathie to discuss what Yearbook information might be appropriate to move onto the website: Nina, Nancy, Karen, Trish, Cathy F and Anne.

Old Business — Both Jane L and Eileen M inquired at the Town offices to see if the NGC bookmarks could be included in the town’s welcome packet, and each was given a different answer. It was noted that the bookmarks should be updated to include reference to the club’s FB page when they are next printed.

New business –

- 1) Nancy shared that it is time for the club to update its description of each committee’s and officer’s responsibilities. She passed out copies of the current descriptions to the corresponding officers and chairs, and asked that revised versions of same be provided by the May Board meeting.
- 2) Nancy informed the Board that it is also time for the periodic review of the bylaws. It was suggested that the Yearbook review group could do this while reviewing the Yearbook.
- 3) Dues also were slated to be reviewed. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed to change the associate member dues from \$45 to \$50, and leave the other dues the same. Specifically, *a motion was made to increase the annual dues for associate members from \$45 to \$50; said motion passed.*
- 4) Discussion took place about whether the club would donate a tree to Mass Hort’s Festival of Trees this year. The club had planned to do so every other year, and 2019 would be a year in which the club would donate a tree. However, concern was expressed about whether members have the time and energy to put the considerable work required into such a project this year. The Board also discussed whether a donation to Mass Hort, in lieu of donating a tree, might

be appropriate. *A motion was made that a donation be made to Mass Hort in lieu of donating a tree, said donation to be in an amount to be determined; said motion passed.* Lyn J then stated she would be interested in working on a tree, and will bring this up at the April general meeting to see if there is interest among the club's members. Action on the motion will be revisited depending on whether Lyn and others agree to move forward with a tree donation on behalf of the club

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Brand, Recording Secretary

Present: Nancy Agler, Lynne Braley, Jane Brand, Anne Carlson, Diana Conroy, Cathie Cummings, Cathy Flaherty, Lyn Jekowsky, Lynne Jones, Jane Lischewski, Cathy MacFarlane, Eileen Mecagni, Nina Saltus, Martha Schleck, Karen Taggart, Mary Toran, Bonnie Waters, Vivian Weller and Debbie Wentworth.