

NEEDHAM GARDEN CLUB
Board Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2020
(15 Members Present)

Tri-President Diana Conroy called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. and led the meeting at the beginning, and upon her arrival shortly thereafter, Tri-President Jane Lischewski took over leading the meeting.

Lynne Braley was thanked for hosting the meeting; Diana was co-host.

Minutes from the January Board meeting were not approved at this meeting, due to confusion over the correct number for a quorum. This issue will be revisited at the next Board meeting.

Corresponding Secretary:

Bonnie Waters reported that in February she sent a card to Harding Ounanian on the death of his mother, Marjorie, who was a past president of the club. It was agreed that a book will be purchased for the library in Marjorie's memory; Debbie Wentworth will take care of arranging for the book purchase in an amount not to exceed \$35.

Treasurer/Finance Committee:

Treasurer Martha Schleck stated that she will re-send the February Treasurer's report, which did not initially email successfully.

January began with \$22,086.09 in the checking account and \$280 cash on hand, for a total of \$22,366.09. There was no income for the month, and expenses were \$572.55. At the end of the month, the checking account balance was \$21,513.54, and cash on hand was \$280, for a total of \$21,793.54. February began with \$21,513.54 in the checking account, and \$280 cash on hand, for a total of \$21,793.54. Income for the month was \$110.50, and expenses were \$535.70. At the end of the month, the checking account balance was \$21,088.34 and cash on hand was \$280, for a total of \$21,368.34.

Martha also stated that the Pennies for Pines collection at the February general meeting brought in \$75.50.

Communications Committee:

Publicity — no update.

Yearbook — Trish Cruickshank asked for suggestions for next year's Yearbook. One suggestion was to include the dates of both the MFA's and Needham's Art in Bloom in the Yearbook.

Facebook — No update.

Website — No update, but it was noted that some photos on the website relate to 2018 information.

Community Outreach Committee:

Lynne Jones stated that Garden Therapy sessions will be held in March and April. The sign-up sheets are on the counter in the kitchen. There are sufficient volunteers for the March Garden Therapy; a few more volunteers for April would be helpful. Lynne also stated that she would check with the facilities to see if they are still interested in having an outside group visit, given the current issues involving Covid-19. Lynne related Cathie Cummings' concern about the urns at the library, and that the pedestals below them are deteriorating. Previous attempts to obtain self-

watering planters did not work because they did not fit the space. Lynne stated that the committee would be meeting to discuss this further, and she also plans to meet with library staff and/or Friends of the Library to get their ideas.

Flower Arranging Committee:

Carole Grosberg stated that more than 20 people had signed up for the May 12 workshop at Elm Bank. The plan is to create an arrangement using glass bowls, river rocks and calla lilies. Discussion ensued about the per person cost of making the arrangements, and whether the club should subsidize part of the cost. Following discussion, it was agreed that the club would not subsidize this expense, and that each participant should bear the cost of participating in this workshop.

Carole also gave a brief MFA Art in Bloom update, stating that the NGC artwork is part of the Women Take the Floor exhibit, and shared a picture of the painting and ceramic pieces which she and Debbie K will be interpreting.

Horticulture Committee:

Karen Taggart stated that the committee will be meeting to prepare for the plant sale. They plan to have committee members follow up with club members concerning what each member will contribute to the plant sale. She stated it would be helpful to have mentors tell their mentees/new members that participation is mandatory. The Membership Committee will follow up with mentors concerning this.

Hospitality Committee:

Cathy Flaherty stated that for the Tri-Club Meeting, TBS had requested that NGC provide platters of cookies, bars, grapes and veggies with dip. Cathy also stated that the deposit has been sent to the Needham Golf Course for the Annual Meeting and Luncheon. The menu will be coming soon; attendees will bear the cost of same.

Membership Committee:

Debbie Wentworth distributed stickers with corrected contact information for new member Kathryn Bender. A request was made for revised attendance sheets that fit more names on a page to reduce paper usage. The committee was also asked to provide a monthly count of guests attending the general meetings.

Newsletter Committee:

Committee member Jane Brand stated that April 10 is the deadline for the May/June newsletter. Pictures and articles should be submitted by then. It was noted that photos of Art in Bloom would be useful for the newsletter.

Nominating Committee:

Anne Carlson stated that the nominating slate for officers and chairs has been completed, and it will be circulated to Board members, and a vote requested via email (due to confusion concerning the necessary quorum). The committee assignments also have been completed and will be circulated later, but before the Annual Meeting so that chairs can convene committee meetings before the summer if they wish.

Program Committee:

Bonnie Waters noted that the presentation by Jen Kettell was well-received. The presenter at the April meeting will be Susan Guest, who will give tips on ergonomic gardening.

Ways and Means Committee:

No update, although Bonnie W stated that the jewelry committee was disinclined to hold a jewelry sale again this December, given the amount of work involved and last year's disappointing sales. Following discussion, it was agreed the jewelry committee would take a year off, and the subject will be revisited next spring.

New Business:

Jane L brought the following to the members' attention:

1. Needham's Art in Bloom will take place on March 7-8.
2. The Boston Flower Show will take place on March 11-15 at the Seaport World Trade Center.
3. The Tri-Club Meeting is scheduled for March 17 at 7:15 pm at Temple Beth Shalom. The guest speaker is Sandra Sigman from Les Fleurs in Andover.
4. A Speakers Bureau event is being held at Elm Bank on March 24. It was confirmed that members of the Program Committee plan to attend to look for future presenters for the club's general meetings.
5. The GCFM is holding a Garden School at Tower Hill Botanic Garden on April 2 and 3. Brochures re same were circulated.
6. The GCFM is holding a class about the Flower Show School on April 14-16. Brochures re same were circulated.
7. The GCFM's Wallack lecture will be held on May 5 at 10:00 at Regis College. Tickets cost \$20.
8. The club's Annual Meeting and Luncheon is May 19.
9. The GCFM's Annual Meeting is June 3.
10. An organization called Wellesley Neighbors requested an opportunity to speak to the club. It appears that they are a social and networking organization. Due to NGC's already full schedule of programming, it was agreed that we would decline their request to speak, but would ask Wellesley Neighbors to send a calendar of its events.
11. Jane read a letter received from Vivian W, who thanked the club for its support as she recuperates.
12. The Pennies for Pines program collected \$75.50 from the club this year, as compared to \$51.00 the last time the club participated.

Old Business:

1. The club possesses a silverplate tea service, and numerous china teacups, that were used many years ago by the Hospitality Committee. Following discussion, it was agreed that the silverplate pieces would be donated to the Community Council. The teacups may be used for a future floral arrangement project.
2. There are also boxes of old meeting minutes from the 1960s, as well as albums of old photos. It was agreed that the club archives at the library should be checked to see if the minutes in question are already among the archived items. With respect to the photos, it was agreed that it would be helpful to have some longtime members take a look at them to

see if they recognize those depicted. Also, it was mentioned that Nancy Agler possesses numerous old club photos, which she intends to scan to preserve same. Some questioned whether the Needham Historical Society might be interested in some of the old photos.

3. Margie Hillback has several pedestals stored at her home, from when the club used to hold flower shows. No one present was interested in taking the pedestals. Margie would like them removed from her home.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Brand, Recording Secretary

Present: Lynne Braley, Jane Brand, Anne Carlson, Diana Conroy, Trish Cruickshank, Cathy Flaherty, Nancy Gallerani, Carole Grosberg, Lynne Jones, Jane Lischewski, Nina Saltus, Martha Schleck, Karen Taggart, Bonnie Waters and Debbie Wentworth.