

Needham Garden Club Board Minutes
November 6, 2018
(19 Board members present)

President Nancy Agler called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. Debbie Wentworth hosted the meeting, with help from Carol Alper.

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.

Corresponding Secretary – For Corresponding Secretary Cathy MacFarlane, Nancy Agler reported that a card had been sent to Anne C, who is recovering from surgery.

Treasurer – Per a revised Treasurer’s Report provided by Treasurer Martha Schleck after the meeting, the beginning checking account balance was \$19,118.49 and cash on hand was \$280.00, for a total of \$19,398.49. Total income for this period was \$379.00 and total expenses were \$716.67. The ending checking account balance was \$18,780.82 and cash on hand was \$280.00, for a total of \$19,060.82.

Martha reported that the audit has been completed. Vivian was thanked for her work accomplishing same, and she reported that she performed the audit from September 2015 to the present. Other than one month for which data was missing, all of the other months were extraordinarily well-documented and no problems were noted.

Martha also had pink reimbursement slips available for those who need them.

Community Outreach – Debbie Wentworth stated that the next Garden Therapy is scheduled for November 29 at Avita. She also stated that additional volunteers for arrangements for the library reception area are needed for 2019. Sign-up sheets for both were circulated. Debbie also mentioned that the Needham Garden Club sign which was on the library reception table is missing. She made inquiry at the library, but it was not located. Karen may be able to provide another copy of it; Debbie has a holder to replace the missing one.

Flower Arranging – Nina Saltus stated that she hoped the club members had enjoyed the October table scapes mixer. She also informed the Board that on May 8 at Elm Bank, Debbie Kraft will lead a workshop featuring sculpture and floral design.

Horticulture – Karen Taggart reported that 18 amaryllis were potted at the workshop and are being taken care of; based on reports, the plants are doing very well. Karen offered to circulate a video in advance of the wreath and arrangement workshop to assist members with ideas; the board agreed this would be helpful. Karen also stated that she will be unable to attend the wreath and arrangement workshop, but will do a small workshop at her home early that week.

Hospitality – Mary Toran informed the Board that the Flower Arranging Committee will be hosting the November 20 meeting. She also circulated a sign-up sheet for members to provide goodies during the wreath and arrangement workshop; Mary will order sandwiches for those attending the workshop.

Membership – Bonnie Waters provided contact slips for Nemet Eid and Lindy Roethlisberger. Nemet will join the Flower Arranging Committee; Lyn J will be her mentor. Lindy will join the Program Committee; Cathie C will be her mentor.

Newsletter – Carol thanked Amy for the last newsletter, and stated that she will be preparing the next one. The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is December 10th.

Nominating – No update.

Program – Per Nancy, the Board was informed that due to a new job, Lori will no longer be able to attend Board meetings; also, Fawn was attending a GCFM flower design class this morning. The guest speaker on November 20 will be Candace Morgenstern.

Discussion ensued about the possibility of providing stipends for those members who may participate in the MFA's Art in Bloom. The Board expressed its desire offer a stipend for one group representing the Needham Garden Club, and a motion was made as follows: To fund a stipend of up to \$400 for the MFA's Art in Bloom for a team of two. Said motion was passed. On further discussion, the Board expressed its expectation that if club funds are used to purchase a container for Art in Bloom, then the container becomes the property of the club.

Publicity – Gail Davis stated that an article and photo regarding the scholarship had appeared in the local paper. She has submitted information relating to the November 20 meeting to Hometown Weekly and the Needham Times. She will also be placing an ad for the wreath and jewelry sale in the local paper.

Following discussion, Gail agreed to prepare a flyer concerning the wreath/arrangement and jewelry sale which can be emailed to friends, and other members offered to post same on FB and on town "neighborhood" pages.

Ways and Means – Jane Lischewski stated that the contract with the Congregational Church had been signed. Signs have been prepared for the cashier table at the sale to inform buyers that proceeds benefit community enrichment. Six members have signed up for the make-your-own wreath workshop. The bow-making workshop will take place at Lynne B's on Thursday, November 8 at 10:30. Jane asked that members put out yard signs after Election Day is over, and asked that members donate greens for the workshop. (After the sale, Jane will change the signs to the sale date for 2019, which will be December 7). With regard to the jewelry sale, Jane reported that a team had met several times and been working very hard to clean, repair and prepare 500-600 pieces of jewelry for the sale. Pieces include some sterling silver and a few pieces of gold; most pieces are costume jewelry. Organza bags were purchased for those customers making larger purchases. The jewelry table will be well-staffed, and jewelry sales will be separately tracked via a written receipt system. Lyn J agreed to loan some busts to the sale for displaying necklaces. Discussion ensued about the importance of having any valuable pieces of jewelry locked up and not left out overnight at the church. Diana offered to find a location within the church that said items could be securely stored the night preceding the sale. Discussion also followed about a garden themed necklace, which members thought might be suitable for a "traveling award." Jane L will have it for now, and at the next meeting, will award it to someone else to enjoy for a month.

Social Media – Lyn Jekowsky reported that the FB page has received a number of likes, and asked members to continue sharing it. She posts publicity information she receives from Gail, and asked for photos to be forwarded to her for posting.

Nancy Agler stated that the website is up-to-date.

Yearbook – Cathie Cummings reported that one yearbook which was mailed was returned and notated ‘addressee unknown.’ Also, Nancy Yablonski’s telephone number is incorrect in the yearbook, but is correct on the website.

Old Business –Karen T and Bonnie W attended the GCFM meeting in October. They reported that the GCFM is urging garden clubs to hold flower shows of various kinds. There is also a horticulture book available from the GCFM which the club can order.

New business – Nancy brought to the Board’s attention that Needham’s GoGreen Expo is Saturday, November 10. Many topics will be covered, some of which relate to gardening and horticulture. Diana passed around some garden/flower books which are being taken out of circulation by the library and which are therefore available to anyone interested in having them. She shared that many of the garden-related books are oversized, and are kept in the Folio area of the library. The Board was reminded that MassHort’s Festival of Trees will begin after Thanksgiving. The club is not participating this year, but plans to do so next year.

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Brand, Recording Secretary

Present: Nancy Agler, Carol Alper, Lynne Braley, Jane Brand, Amy Cicala, Diana Conroy, Cathie Cummings, Gail Davis, Cathy Flaherty, Lyn Jekowsky, Lynne Jones, Jane Lischewski, Cathy MacFarlane, Nina Saltus, Martha Schleck, Karen Taggart, Mary Toran, Bonnie Waters, Vivian Weller and Debbie Wentworth.