

**Needham Garden Club General Meeting Minutes**  
**January 16, 2018**

**President Diana Conroy** called the meeting to order at 9:47 a.m. She welcomed guests and thanked Karen Taggart and Bonnie Waters for the centerpiece on the food table, and the Nominating Committee for the treats for the meeting. She noted that the treasurer's report and minutes from the last general meeting were available on the table in the back of the room. Diana thanked the Festival of Trees volunteers, and stated that the tentative plan is to participate in the Festival every other year, so the club would next participate in 2019. Diana also directed members to see Fawn Hurwitz if they are interested in purchasing tickets to Francine Thomas' GCFM presentation in April.

**Recording Secretary** –A motion was made to accept the minutes from November's general meeting; said motion passed.

**Corresponding Secretary** – No update.

**Treasurer/Finance Committee** – Martha Schleck made available copies of the most recent Treasurer's report. She also thanked Janice Berns and Jane Lischewski for their efforts organizing the wreath and arrangement sale, which made almost \$1900.

**Community Outreach** – Lynne Jones informed the members that two additional Garden Therapy sessions have been scheduled, as follows: March 22 at 2:00 at Avery Manor; and April 26 at 10:30 at Wingate. She also asked that small baskets be donated for use at Garden Therapy.

**Flower Arranging** – No update.

**Horticulture** – Cathie Cummings directed members to the winter sowing display on the tables in the back of the room. It was noted that further information could be found in the newsletter and on the website. She also stated that seeds suitable for winter sowing were available. Cathie also informed the club that there is a members-only program in March about growing and use of herbs. Four types of basil seeds will be distributed for later trading and/or sale at the NBA Fair.

**Hospitality** – No update.

**Membership** – Bonnie Waters welcomed visitors and asked guests to see her for materials if they might be interested in joining the club.

**Newsletter** – Carol Alper stated that the deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is February 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Nominating** – Karen Taggart informed the members that the deadline for submitting sign-up sheets for next year’s committee assignments is January 19. Sign-up sheets are available on the back table. Karen requested that if a member has served on the same committee for 3 or 4 years, to please consider changing. She also requested that members provide second and third choices of committees, to avoid simply being assigned to a committee.

**Program** – Fawn Hurwitz introduced Lisa Tavakoli, who was present to share her expertise concerning teas and botanical knowledge in the “Harvest to Cup” program. Lisa has attended world tea expos, and international and regional symposia, and formerly owned an English Victorian tea room featuring high tea.

**Publicity** – Gail Davis stated that articles concerning club programming have appeared in the local newspapers.

**Ways and Means** – Jane Lischewski thanked everyone who helped with the wreath sale. She requested that all yard signs be returned, and stated that she would continue to collect holiday decorations and centerpiece holders for use at next year’s sale.

**Website** – Nancy Agler encouraged members to visit the website.

**Yearbook** – Karen Taggart provided the members with Char Sidell’s correct telephone number.

**Miscellaneous** –

Margie Hillback requested the donation of large baskets for a fundraiser for a non-profit conservancy that she is involved with. She also stated that she has large flower pots to give away if anyone is interested.

Monica Foley informed the group of an opportunity to do floral design based on a children’s book as a June 10th fundraiser for Natick’s Bacon Free Library.

The business meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m., at which point the presentation by Lisa Tavakoli began.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Brand, Recording Secretary.