

**NEEDHAM GARDEN CLUB  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
August 11, 2020  
(14 members present)**

Co-President Jane Lischewski called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The meeting took place over the Zoom platform.

Agenda items:

1. Purchase of Zoom subscription

A motion was made to purchase a subscription to Zoom for \$149.99 for the coming year. This will permit the Board and the Club to hold an unlimited number of meetings without time limits; participation in such meetings is capped at 100. A motion to purchase a Zoom subscription for approximately \$150 was made and seconded; said motion passed.

2. Cancellation of Fall in-person meetings

Based on response to a survey of the club's members, most members are either not in favor of holding, or are uncomfortable attending, indoor in-person meetings this Fall. In addition, Jane L's efforts to locate alternative indoor space to hold such a meeting, since the library is closed and has no current plans to reopen, have proved fruitless to date. Accordingly, a motion was made to try to postpone the speakers scheduled for the September and November meetings until next year. Said motion was seconded and approved. Bonnie Waters will get in touch with those speakers to see if they are available for next year.

Further discussion ensued about how to create an alternative virtual event to keep members engaged and provide a level of continuing connection with the Club. Lyn Jekowsky offered to prepare a Patcha-Kucha video presentation for the September 15 general meeting, featuring photos from members' gardens, set to music. She will prepare a short write-up concerning same, which Martha Schleck, as new mass communication point person, will distribute.

Another suggestion was to convene an outdoor, socially-distanced BYO lunch or brunch for the Board, where members could bring their own chairs to a park in town. This idea was greeted with general approval; it will be further discussed at the September Board meeting.

3. Ways & Means Wreath and Arrangement Sale

Co-Chair Diana Conroy stated that she and co-chair Fabienne Madsen had met to discuss the feasibility of moving forward with the Club's traditional Wreath and Arrangement Sale in December. They felt that in light of the ongoing pandemic and the advent of the flu season, as well as the fact that the Congregational Church (the site of the sale) is not open to group gatherings and a date when it might re-open is unknown, it was not feasible or desirable to move forward with plans to hold the sale. Diana stated that she and Fabienne are willing to remain on the Ways and Means Committee for another year to organize the sale in 2021. Accordingly, a motion was made and seconded to defer the Wreath and Arrangement Sale for a year due to community health concerns; said motion passed.

Following this motion, discussion ensued about an event in December for members in place of the sale. The suggestion was made to prepare a Patcha-Kucha presentation featuring members' homes decorated for the holidays.

Other business:

a. The question was raised as to whether the Club should consider extending this year's membership dues to cover next year's membership, in light of the limited programming which the Club will be able to offer this year due to the pandemic. It was agreed that this discussion would be tabled until 2021.

b. Carol Alper stated that there is no content for the upcoming newsletter, and asked those present to share information, photos, etc.

c. It was noted that the Club had not received information back from the recipient of the Club scholarship.

d. The next Board meeting is September 1. Martha will send out the new Zoom meeting info in advance of that meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Brand, Recording Secretary

Present: Nancy Agler, Carol Alper, Jane Brand, Anne Carlson, Diana Conroy, Cathie Cummings, Cathy Flaherty, Pat Hession, Lyn Jekowsky, Lynne Jones, Jane Lischewski, Terry Luskin, Martha Schleck, and Bonnie Waters.