

**NEEDHAM GARDEN CLUB
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 7, 2021
(17 members present)**

Tri-President Debbie Wentworth called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. The meeting took place via Zoom.

Recording Secretary:

Tri-President Jane Lischewski moved to accept the minutes from the June Board meeting; said motion passed and the minutes were accepted.

Corresponding Secretary:

Bonnie Waters stated that three cards had been sent over the summer to members to let them know the club is thinking of them.

Treasurer/Finance Committee:

Brief discussion took place concerning a member's dues check which apparently went astray in the mail.

The June Treasurer's Report reflected the following:

June began with \$22,347.25 in the checking account and cash on hand of \$280, for a total of \$22,627.25. Income for the month was \$1,536.00; expenses were \$3,073.50. At the end of the month, the checking account balance was \$20,809.75 and cash on hand was \$280, for a total of \$21,089.75.

The July Treasurer's Report reflected the following:

July began and ended with \$20,809.75 in the checking account and cash on hand of \$280, for a total of \$21,089.75, as there were neither income nor expenses for the month.

The August Treasurer's Report reflected the following:

August began with \$20,809.75 in the checking account and cash on hand of \$280, for a total of \$21,089.75. There was no income for the month; expenses were \$70.68. At the end of the month, the checking account balance was \$20,739.07 and cash on hand was \$280, for a total of \$21,019.07.

Communications Committee:

Publicity — Gail Davis stated that nice write-ups about the scholarship recipient appeared in both newspapers (Hometown Weekly and the Needham Times). She agreed to do publicity for the September 21 program. Bonnie will provide a copy of the program info for the year to Jane L., who will forward it to the Board. See below under Program Committee for discussion concerning the September 21 program.

Yearbook — Trish Cruickshank reported that the yearbook should be ready by the September 21 meeting.

Facebook — Lyn Jekowsky will post information concerning the September 21 meeting to the club's FB page. Lyn requested that committees continue sending her information and pictures to post, and that members 'like' the posts.

Website — No update.

Community Outreach Committee:

Co-Chair Lynne Jones stated that a Garden Therapy had been scheduled for September 30 at Wingate, and that notwithstanding follow-up conversations considering the most recent COVID surge, it appears that Wingate would like to host the event; masks would be required, but not proof of vaccination or COVID tests. Following discussion, *Debbie Wentworth moved that Garden Therapy events be postponed until further notice in light of the ongoing pandemic situation; said motion passed.* Lynne will let Wingate know that the club must cancel the event. Lynne will also cancel the Garden Therapy scheduled with Avita in October. In January, the Board will revisit the issue of holding Garden Therapy events.

The committee is also looking for volunteers to provide floral arrangements or a plant for the reception area at the library. Debbie offered to take over the task of coordinating the library arrangements.

Flower Arranging Committee:

Co-Chair Lyn Jekowsky stated that the theme for October's mixer is "Guess the Fairy Tale or Children's Story." In light of the current pandemic situation, the program has been modified from information previously provided. An email will be sent to all members asking them to sign up, if they are interested in participating, by September 19. The Flower Arranging Committee will divide the participants into teams, who will create their table design and meet for the October mixer at the home of one of the team members, where the team's table design will be displayed via Zoom. A stipend of \$25 for flowers for each team was suggested. *Jane Brand moved that the flower stipend for each team participating in the October mixer be set at \$25; the motion was passed.*

As the October general meeting will no longer be held at the library's Community Room, the club's reservation of that room will be cancelled.

Horticulture Committee:

Co-Chair Trish Cruickshank stated that she and Co-Chair Terry Luskin would be meeting to create horticulture programming in the event that in-person meetings are held.

Hospitality Committee:

Upon inquiry by Co-Chair Anne Brain, it was decided that the club would provide no refreshments for the September 21 meeting.

Membership Committee:

Co-Chair Fawn Hurwitz stated that a new member, Joyce Lafaver, had joined the club. Another member who recently joined, Christine Fleskes, will be introduced by Debbie W at the September 21 meeting, if Christine plans to attend.

Debbie W mentioned that six people have changed their membership status to become associate members. Four of the six have been members for at least eight years; one has been faced with serious health challenges, and therefore sought to change her membership status; another has been a member for less than eight years. Discussion ensued concerning the bylaws requirement

that a member be a full member for eight years before associate membership status can be granted. *Jane L moved that an exception be made to the bylaws requirement that one be a member for eight years before becoming an associate member in the case of the individual facing the serious health challenges; the motion passed.* With respect to the other individual who has not been a member for eight years yet, Debbie offered to speak with that individual and explain the eight-year rule in the bylaws, and offer a refund of the excess \$5 in dues and a committee assignment. It was noted that the membership letter that was sent to members did not reference the ‘eight-year rule’ that is in the bylaws; that will be corrected in the future.

Newsletter Committee:

Co-Editor Carol Alper stated that the next newsletter deadline, for the November/December issue, will be October 10.

Nominating Committee:

No update.

Program Committee:

Discussion took place about whether the September 21 program, scheduled to take place in person at the library’s Community Room and originally planned to be open to the public, should continue to be open to the public, limited to members only, or offered via Zoom. Pat Hession, Program Committee Co-Chair, noted that the presenter wished to do a live presentation. Following discussion, it was agreed that the meeting will be limited to club members only. Jane L will poll the members to see how many plan to attend in person. Masks will be required. Refreshments will not be provided. Efforts will be made to offer Zoom viewing as well, in a hybrid meeting model, with members to be notified closer to the meeting date as technical issues must be worked out. It also was decided that no business meeting will be held at the September 21 meeting.

Co-Chair Bonnie Waters agreed to cancel the club’s reservation of the Community Room for the October 19 meeting, which will now be held via Zoom (see discussion at Floral Arranging, above).

It was noted that the November presenter will not do Zoom presentations, so an alternative program should be planned in case the club does not meet in person in November. The status of the November meeting (in-person or not) will be addressed at the October Board meeting.

Ways and Means Committee:

Tri-Chair Diana Conroy reported that due to an increase in the prices of greens this year, our distributor is offering balsam wreaths only, and no bulk greens. Lots of decorations to dress up plain wreaths have been purchased from Jacobson’s. Wreaths need to be ordered by October 1 and based on past experience would cost approximately \$800. Diana sought Board input about whether to move ahead with purchase of the wreaths, in light of uncertainties surrounding the COVID pandemic, including whether indoor space at the Congregational Church would continue to be available for decorating wreaths, whether members would feel comfortable gathering indoors for that purpose, and the feasibility of holding the sale outside, if necessary. Discussion also included the collegiality of the wreath-making workshops and whether the sale should be

postponed this year, or even indefinitely given that members purchase most of the wreaths anyway. It was decided that Diana would poll members to gauge interest in ordering/making wreaths for themselves, with an option of having members of the Ways & Means Committee put together bags of decorations for the wreaths which would be made available to members for decorating their wreaths at home. If there is little interest, the sale may be postponed for this year.

Old Business:

A book, Floritopia by Jan Johnsen, has been obtained by the library. It was given by the club in memory of past president Marjorie Oumanian.

New business:

The NUARI (Needham Unite Against Racism Initiative) vision statement concerning racial equity in Needham was discussed, as well as some ways in which the club could be more proactive about inclusivity and equity. Carol A and Diana C will create a subcommittee to further pursue these efforts. All present were in favor of the principles expressed in the vision statement. Pursuant to request, Jane L will so notify the town.

There being no further business, and *upon motion made by Martha Schleck, and approved, the meeting adjourned at 11:02 am.*

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Brand, Recording Secretary

Present: Carol Alper, Anne Brain, Jane Brand, Anne Carlson, Diana Conroy, Trish Cruickshank, Gail Davis, Cathy Flaherty, Pat Hession, Fawn Hurwitz, Lyn Jekowsky, Lynne Jones, Jane Lischewski, Fabienne Madsen, Martha Schleck, Bonnie Waters, Debbie Wentworth and Nancy Yablonski.