

NEEDHAM GARDEN CLUB
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
September 17, 2019

President Diana Conroy called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. She thanked the Hospitality Committee for providing the goodies on the tea table.

Recording Secretary: A copy of the minutes from the last general meeting were provided on the table in the back of the room. Upon a vote of those members present and voting, said minutes were approved.

Corresponding Secretary: Bonnie Waters stated she sent a card to one of the associate members whose husband passed away. Bonnie asked that she be notified of events, good or bad, involving members for which the club may wish to send a card.

Treasurer/Finance Committee: Martha Schleck provided a copy of the most recent Treasurer's Reports on the table in the back of the room for members to review.

Communication: Gail Davis stated that three nice articles about the club appeared in the local newspapers over the summer, concerning the club's scholarship recipient and upcoming programs. Trish stated that the Yearbook is available today for members to take. Fabienne was thanked for her work designing the cover. The information contained in the Yearbook will also be posted on the club's website. Lyn J asked for pictures of events to be sent to her for posting on the club's FB page; also, members were asked to "like" the page. Diana reminded member that the GCFM's theme is to "plant native."

Community Outreach: Lynne Jones stated that four Garden Therapy sessions have been planned for the upcoming year. The two fall events are on Oct 24 at Briarwood and on Nov 21 at Avita; both have been scheduled for the afternoon. A signup sheet for continued watering of the library urns is on the table in back. Watering of Noyes Garden is done for the year. There is also a signup sheet available for providing library reception area arrangements. Slots are filled through the end of the year, but volunteers are needed for late winter and the spring. Also, the committee is accepting donations of small baskets to use for Garden Therapy. Some of the small 'Revere bowls' may be used, but as they are a bit expensive, the committee would prefer to use donated baskets.

Flower Arranging: Lyn Jekowsky stated that the club mixer will take place at the October members-only meeting. The theme is dinner for two in a natural world environment. A card table, or card table-sized area, will be used for displaying each team's work. Each team will receive a \$25 stipend for flowers. Teams will be created after today's meeting, so this is the last chance to sign up; a signup sheet is being circulated.

The committee is working on preparing for the high school's Distinguished Career Awards program on Oct 23. Debbie Kraft will be preparing a large flower arrangement for the podium, and the club also will provide 12 smaller table arrangements.

Horticulture: Karen Taggart stated that a workshop will be held on October 10, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, about how to chalk paint terra cotta pots. This technique, which does not require priming, can also be used to paint furniture. Sand paper can then be used to give a distressed look. A handout is available on the back table, along with information about other pot-decorating techniques. Supplies will be provided, but please bring an old (clean, washed) pot. The purpose of the workshop is to learn the technique. The club expects to use painted pots as part of its Wreath and Arrangement Sale and the spring Plant Sale.

Hospitality: Cathy Flaherty stated that a signup sheet is being circulated for the members-only luncheon on Oct 15 following October's mixer.

Membership: Nancy Gallerani introduced two new members: Marilyn Conviser, who was presented with an apron and yearbook; and Gerry Dardinski, who was unable to attend the meeting.

Newsletter: Carol Alper stated that the next issue will be the Nov/Dec issue. The deadline for submissions is Oct 10. She asked that members send news of club events to be published in the newsletter.

Nominating: No update.

Ways and Means: Bonnie informed the group that the club would again include a gently-used jewelry sale at the Wreath and Arrangement Sale. Enough jewelry to hold the sale has been donated, but the committee could use more. Diana stated that the money from this and other fundraisers goes to fund the club's scholarship and outreach events like Garden Therapy. Diana stated that she and Fabienne have been working on preparations for the Wreath and Arrangement Sale. The sale will take place on Dec 7. Wreaths will be ordered soon. They have plenty of supplies, but ask that club members keep an eye out for "stellar" pine cones, dried sedum and other "natural" objects.

Karen T then introduced Debbie Kraft, whose program, 'Flowers for Your Home,' entails designing flower arrangements scaled for different rooms in the home. Debbie has worked as an artist, and in landscape, home and floral design; she has a floral design business.

At approximately 10:05, the business meeting adjourned and the presentation by Debbie Kraft began.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Brand, Recording Secretary