

**NEEDHAM GARDEN CLUB
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

October 15, 2019

President Diana Conroy called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m. She thanked Cathie Cummings for providing the tea table centerpiece, which will be placed in the library reception area after the meeting. She also thanked the Membership Committee for providing the goodies on the tea table.

Diana briefly discussed the work done by the Bylaws Team over the summer to revise and update the bylaws, and referenced the copies of proposed bylaws changes previously provided to the club's members. Then, upon motion made to adopt the proposed changes to the bylaws and a vote of those members present and voting, the proposed bylaw changes were adopted by unanimous vote.

Recording Secretary: A copy of the minutes from the last general meeting was provided on the table in the back of the room and had been posted on the club's website. Upon a vote of those members present and voting, said minutes were approved.

Corresponding Secretary: Bonnie Waters stated a memorial book is being purchased in memory of past president Carol Roth, who recently passed away. The book is the latest edition of Margaret Roach's A Way to Garden. The club will donate it to the library and the book will have a bookplate noting that it was donated in memory of Carol.

Treasurer/Finance Committee: Martha Schleck has reimbursement slips for anyone who needs one.

Communication: Diana requested that pictures be sent to Nancy A and to Lyn J for posting on the club's website and Facebook pages, respectively.

Community Outreach: Lynne Jones stated that the committee is ready for the Garden Therapy scheduled for October 24 at Briarwood at 1:00 p.m. There is also a Garden Therapy scheduled for November 21 at 1:00 at Avita. Sign-up sheets for these member-only events are on the back table.

Flower Arranging: Lyn Jekowsky stated that the committee is planning to prepare the 12 table arrangements and large podium arrangement needed for the Distinguished Career Awards on Thursday, October 24 at 9:00 a.m. at Lyn's home. Additional help is needed.

Horticulture: Karen Taggart stated that a chalk painting workshop was held last week at her home; twenty members participated. Additional workshops may be scheduled. She also stated that today's Horticultural Corner featured a plant swap and samples of some pots created at the chalk painting workshop.

Hospitality: Cathy Flaherty noted that today is the members-only luncheon, following the mixer.

Membership: Nancy Gallerani introduced five new members, and the committees they will serve on, as follows: Gerry Dardinski – Outreach; Terry Luskin – Horticulture; Janet Rubenstein – Flower Arranging; Mo Dowd – Program; and Amy Liss – Outreach. Each was presented with an apron and a Yearbook.

Eileen presented the “garden necklace” to Trish Cruickshank in recognition of her hard work on the Yearbook.

Newsletter: Carol Alper stated that the next issue will be the Jan/Feb issue. The deadline for submissions is Dec 10. She asked that members send news of club events and photos for publication in the newsletter.

Nominating: No update.

Ways and Means: Diana stated that the Wreath & Arrangement Sale is the main fundraiser for the club and every member is expected to participate in some way. Participation is especially important on Dec 6. Other opportunities to participate include a bow-making workshop at Lynne B’s on Nov 7 at 10:30 a.m. (about 12 people needed), and an amaryllis planting workshop at Karen T’s on Nov 7 at 1:00 p.m. In addition, greens from members’ gardens will be needed.

Other Business:

A fundraiser for the Ruth Wallack Memorial Fund will take place on May 5 at Regis College, and will feature international floral designer Craig Bullock. Fawn has tickets for those who are interested.

Margie H also stated that she had brought some donated items to sell, such as various plant vessels, to raise money for the club.

Vivian W shared some information about how to make elderberry syrup from our native elderberries, and the benefits of same.

Temple Beth Shalom will be holding its annual Antique Show Sunday, Nov 10 at the NHS cafeteria.

Carol G and Lyn J have been working on a tree for MassHort’s Festival of Trees. The tree’s theme is based on Jan Brett’s book The Mitten. Request was made for members to knit small white mittens, and also to donate (preferably small) stuffed woodland animals, such as those featured in the story (e.g., owls, hedgehogs, rabbits, foxes, bears, moles, badgers and moose).

At approximately 10:12, the business meeting adjourned and the October tablescapes mixer began.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Brand, Recording Secretary