

NEEDHAM GARDEN CLUB BOARD MINUTES
January 7, 2020
(21 Board members present)

Tri-President Nancy Agler called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Lyn Jekowsky was thanked for hosting the meeting, and Carol Alper for co-hosting.

Minutes from the November Board meeting were approved.

Corresponding Secretary:

Bonnie Waters reported that in December she sent a note to Carol Roth's family, notifying them that a book had been purchased for the library in Carol's memory. Other members reported that Vivian W suffered a broken leg; family of Jane L and Lindy R have been dealing with illness.

Treasurer/Finance Committee:

Treasurer Martha Schleck emailed copies of the Treasurer's reports for November and December, as well as a summary of the Wreath and Arrangement sale. Because of an additional entry relating to the Wreath and Arrangement sale, Martha will circulate revised versions of the December report and Wreath and Arrangement sale summary.

November began with \$19,135.72 in the checking account and \$280 cash on hand, for a total of \$19,415.72. Income for the month was \$639.00, and expenses were \$739.62. At the end of the month, the checking account balance was \$19,035.10, and cash on hand was \$280, for a total of \$19,315.10.

December began with \$19,035.10 in the checking account, and \$280 cash on hand, for a total of 19,315.10. Income for the month was \$5,695.00, and expenses were \$2,537.01. At the end of the month, the checking account balance was \$22,193.09 and cash on hand was \$280, for a total of \$22,473.09.

For the Wreath and Arrangement and Jewelry sale, revenue broke down as follows: Make Your Own Wreaths \$515; jewelry sale \$669; Wreath and Arrangement sale (Sat and Sun) \$4471; total revenue \$5,655. Expenses for the sale totaled \$2,904.68, leaving a profit of \$2,750.32.

Communications Committee:

Publicity — no update.

Yearbook — no update.

Facebook — Lyn Jekowsky reported that the club's Facebook page has been receiving more views. She thanked committees for sending her news to post.

Website — Nancy Agler stated that the website has been updated, to include new horticulture hints and the most recent newsletter.

Community Outreach Committee:

Lynne Jones stated that the next Garden Therapy sessions will be held in March and April. Cathie Cummings circulated a library arrangement sign-up. It was noted that the library urns have new arrangements for the winter. There was a brief discussion about individualized thank-you's for certain tasks, and it was felt that a general thank-you to members, together with remarks on the importance of volunteering to keep the club and its activities running smoothly, would be sufficient.

Flower Arranging Committee:

Lyn Jekowsky thanked those who helped make the club's Festival of Trees entry a success. She and Carole G were thanked for their efforts to organize and spearhead this project.

Lyn J stated that the Fairy Garden workshop has been postponed to June 2nd.

The committee is working on ideas for the May 12 workshop at Elm Bank.

The date of the Tri-Club meeting has yet to be determined; no information is currently available concerning the speaker.

Horticulture Committee:

Karen Taggart stated that there was no update, but noted that the committee has had some discussions about seed starting for the plant sale. It was noted that the amaryllis bulbs purchased at the Wreath and Arrangement sale have done very well for some members.

Hospitality Committee:

Anne Brain thanked those who contributed to the refreshments for the Wreath and Arrangement workshop. She noted that the Program Committee would be providing refreshments for the January 28 general club meeting.

Membership Committee:

Debbie Wentworth distributed stickers with contact information for three new members. Discussion ensued about matching up new members with mentors. Joan H (new member) will be on Community Outreach, and will have Lynne J as a mentor. Ellen B (new member) will be on Hospitality and have Pat H as a mentor. Kathryn B (new member) will be on Horticulture, and will have Karen T as a mentor. It was agreed that prospective mentors be asked in advance if they are willing and able to serve as mentors; also, it was felt that for new members to make the most informed decision about their interests in certain committees, they be provided descriptions of what each committee does.

Newsletter Committee:

Amy Cicala stated that the deadline for submissions for the March/April newsletter is February 10th. She requested photos of library arrangements for inclusion in the newsletter.

Nominating Committee:

Lynne Braley requested that committee preference forms be filled out and returned; not many have been received yet. January 13 is the deadline for submitting the forms. The Committee will have its first meeting on January 14 at 10:00 a.m.

Program Committee:

Pat Hession stated that the MFA Senior Associates' presentation in January will consist of a PowerPoint presentation followed by a flower arranging demonstration. Bonnie will ask that two arrangements be created. Martha requested information about whom to make the check payable to. The individuals who will be presenting are as yet unknown. Committee members will confirm what equipment will be needed for the PowerPoint and that said equipment will be available at the time of the meeting.

Ways and Means Committee:

Diana Conroy stated that a decision had been made to obtain a new wreath display rack to replace the one which collapsed. Trish C has agreed to look into making a new rack; supplies to be paid for

with club funds. The suggestion was made that with appropriate hooks, the rack might also be able to be used at the spring plant sale to display hanging plants.

Diana and co-chair Fabienne Madsen received a well-deserved round of applause for their efforts in making the Wreath and Arrangement sale a success.

Discussion ensued about whether to hold the jewelry sale again next year. Concern was expressed about the availability of used jewelry in light of members' donations over the last two years and the amount of time it takes to get the jewelry ready for the sale. Others noted that it brought in a significant amount of money. Suggestions included a scaled down version of the sale so as to be less overwhelming to club members and to customers, better advertising and better signage/display location within the church. The jewelry subcommittee will meet to discuss their thoughts about continuing the sale and share same at the next Board meeting in March.

Those having yard signs were asked to hold onto them for the time being, until it is determined who will store them for the club. There was discussion about redesigning signs for next year, as many felt the current signs are very difficult to read, given their size and the amount of information contained on them.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

1. Nancy A noted that the Boston Flower Show is March 11-15. She provided a notice concerning the availability of group tickets if anyone wishes to organize a group.
2. Nancy A reminded the group that Mass Hort is sponsoring a tour of the glass flower exhibit at Harvard on January 16.
3. Nancy A stated that she had received an inquiry via the website about the club's scholarship from a student interested in Forestry. She advised the student to apply through their school.
4. Cathie C raised the issue of native plants and briefly discussed their importance to local habitats; Board members are in agreement that appropriate club activities should reflect the importance of native plants.

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Brand, Recording Secretary

Present: Nancy Agler, Carol Alper, Anne Brain, Lynne Braley, Jane Brand, Amy Cicala, Diana Conroy, Trish Cruickshank, Cathie Cummings, Gail Davis, Carole Grosberg, Pat Hession, Lyn Jekowsky, Lynne Jones, Fabienne Madsen, Eileen Mecagni, Nina Saltus, Martha Schleck, Karen Taggart, Bonnie Waters, Debbie Wentworth.