

Needham Garden Club Board Minutes

January 2, 2018

(18 Board members present)

President Nancy Agler called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m. She thanked Char Sidell and Karen Taggart for hosting.

Recording Secretary – A motion was made to accept the November Board Meeting minutes; said motion passed.

Corresponding Secretary Cathy MacFarlane was unable to attend, but the group was informed of an illness of one of its members.

Treasurer Martha Schleck provided the Treasurer's Reports for November and December, as well as a report concerning the wreath sale. The beginning checking account balance in November was \$20,760.56 and cash on hand was \$280.00, for a total of \$21,040.56. Total income for November was \$730.00, and total expenses for November were \$2200.89. The ending checking account balance for November was \$19,289.67 and cash on hand was \$280.00, for a total of \$19,569.67. The beginning checking account balance in December was \$19,289.67 and cash on hand was \$280.00, for a total of \$19,569.67. Total income for December was \$4,731.00, and total expenses for December were \$158.86. The ending checking account balance for December was \$23,861.81 and cash on hand was \$280.00, for a total of \$24,141.81. For the wreath sale, total revenues were \$5,151.00, with \$415 coming from the Make Your Own Wreath sale, and \$4,736 coming from the Saturday sale. Total expenses were \$3,260.75, leaving the club with a profit of \$1,890.25. Martha also stated that she is awaiting one additional check, which will resolve the \$30 discrepancy which was noted.

Community Outreach Co-chair Debbie Wentworth informed the Board that the next outreach event is Garden Therapy at Avery Crossings on March 22 at 1:15 p.m. However, Debbie noted that that event may be cancelled because Avery is being sold and many residents are moving out. There also will be a Garden Therapy event at Wingate on April 26 at 10:30 a.m. Discussion ensued about holding four Garden Therapy events versus three given the circumstances, and what facility might be substituted for Avery if the decision is made to hold four such events this year.

Flower Arranging – No update.

Horticulture Co-chair Cathie Cummings stated that at the next meeting the Horticulture Corner will provide a display concerning winter sowing of seeds using milk jugs, and a list of seeds which are appropriate for this project. Plants or cuttings to share also are welcome. There

followed a discussion concerning the possibility of brief “talks” about plants which are brought in. Cathie also noted that there is a guided tour of the glass flowers at the Harvard Museum being offered on January 8 through MassHort; tickets are \$20.

Hospitality Co-chair Mary Toran noted that the Nominating Committee will be hosting the January 16 meeting, and the Outreach Committee will be hosting the February 27 meeting. She also stated that the Needham Golf Club has been reserved for the club luncheon on May 15.

Membership Co-chair Bonnie Waters stated that there are no new members to report.

Newsletter Co-chair Carol Alper stated that the January/February issue of the newsletter was emailed to members the preceding day. Amy Cicala will be putting together the March/April edition of the newsletter. Any information and pictures to be included in the next issue should be sent to Amy by February 10. Because Carol will be unable to attend the meeting on January 16, Karen Taggart and Jane Brand have agreed to bring three copies each of the Jan/Feb newsletter to place on the back table at the meeting.

Nominating Co-chair Karen Taggart stated that nominating forms will be circulated. Discussion followed about how to get people to change committees they have served on for a long time, including the possibility of imposing a four-year limit on serving on a single committee, unless such person agrees to chair the committee. There is no rule at present which limits a member’s service on a single committee; Karen will draft a proposal concerning this issue which the Board can discuss in more detail at a future meeting.

Program Co-Chair Fawn Hurwitz noted that the January 16 meeting will be a “tea” presentation entitled Harvest to Cup. The guest speaker will be providing cups for tea, and Fawn will provide a themed arrangement.

Publicity Co-chair Gail Davis stated that the January 16 program will appear in both local papers. Karen Shapiro will prepare a flyer, and information about the program will appear on both the club’s website and Facebook page.

Ways and Means Co-chair Jane Lischewski sent an email requesting that next year’s wreath sale at the Congregational Church start on Thursday for the Make Your Own Wreath portion of the sale. Setting up at the library on Thursday, then cleaning up and setting up again at the church on Friday, was difficult this year. Discussion ensued, and it was agreed that we would try to get the church for Thursday afternoon (believing that due to church scheduling the space likely would not be available in the morning). It also was agreed that the member wreath-making and the wreath-making for the sale should not be held on the same day. Members also were

reminded to bring to the January 16 meeting yard signs and any decorations to donate for next year's wreath sale.

Website Chair Nancy Agler stated that the website has been updated. Nancy requested that interesting information or photos be sent for posting on the website.

Yearbook Co-chair Karen Taggart noted a correction to Char Sidell's telephone number for the yearbook.

Old business – Concerning the MassHort Festival of Trees, all agreed they were pleased with the tree, and it was noted that many compliments concerning it had been received. Fawn Hurwitz stated that she had tickets available for the Wallach lecture featuring Francine Thomas of New Zealand. Tickets for the program, being held at Regis College on April 24 at 10:00 a.m., are \$20. There also will be an additional program with Francine Thomas; details to follow.

New business – Co-President Nancy Agler stated that she and Co-President Diana Conroy had discussed the possibility of the club creating a second scholarship, separate from the one offered through the Needham High School. Discussion ensued, concerning such issues as what the application process for such a scholarship might look like, what the criteria for the applicants would be, publicity for same, the logistics of the selection process, and the impact, if any, on the high school scholarship, which was recently increased from \$1000 to \$2000. Following discussion, it was agreed to leave the existing \$2000 scholarship in place for this year with no change. Karen Taggart agreed to notify Needham High School that the amount of the club's scholarship has been increased to \$2,000.

Anne Carlson inquired about the interest in combining the May "Succulent Wreath Workshop" at Elm Bank with a tour of the gardens and lunch, as was done last year. The Board expressed interest in this, and Anne stated she will try to arrange this, with a bring-your-own lunch and club-provided drinks and dessert to follow the program and tour.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Brand, Recording Secretary.

Present: Nancy Agler, Carol Alper, Jane Brand, Anne Carlson, Amy Cicala, Cathie Cummings, Gail Davis, Fawn Hurwitz, Lori Markell, Nina Saltus, Martha Schleck, Karen Shapiro, Char Sidell, Karen Taggart, Mary Toran, Sally Toran, Bonnie Waters and Debbie Wentworth.