

Needham Garden Club Board Minutes

March 6, 2018

(21 Board members present)

President Nancy Agler called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. She thanked Lynne Braley and Diana Conroy for hosting.

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

Corresponding Secretary Cathy MacFarlane stated that her work email (at MacFarlane Energy) is the best way to contact her. Cathy stated she had sent a card to Char Sidell's family after Char's passing. She also updated the Board on illnesses, surgeries, etc of club members.

Treasurer Martha Schleck provided the Treasurer's Reports for February, which stated as follows: The beginning checking account balance in November was \$23,460.01 and cash on hand was \$280.00, for a total of \$23,740.01. Total income for February was \$190.00, and total expenses for February were \$725.00. The ending checking account balance for February was \$22,925.01 and cash on hand was \$280.00, for a total of \$23,205.01.

Martha stated she will make additional copies of the pink reimbursement slips, as those must accompany all requests for reimbursement.

Nancy noted that members should not be paying tax for club-related purchases, as the club is a tax exempt entity. Martha will scan and email to members a copy of the letter documenting the club's tax exempt status, so that all members will have it available when making club-related purchases.

Community Outreach Co-chair Debbie Wentworth informed the Board that the Garden Therapy event at Avery Crossings on March 22 has been cancelled due to Avery's closing and lack of residents. There will be a Garden Therapy event at Wingate on April 26 at 10:30 a.m. Discussion ensued about possible substitutions for the Garden Therapy at Avery, with suggestions including doing two events at Briarwood, an event at the Senior Center, or providing arrangements for the Senior Center café tables. A decision about this will be made before next year's program calendar is put together.

Flower Arranging Co-chair Anne Carlson stated that the next program will be Friday, May 11 at MassHort. The original plan was to make succulent wreaths, but the cost of succulents is prohibitively high. Alternatives are an ivy wreath, in which fresh flowers could be placed in the middle, or planting of succulents in a tea cup. Anne related that MassHort informed her that our club dues cover use of a room, but not a guided tour. This is different than in past years, and Anne will check into this further. It was agreed that the guided tour is worthwhile. It also was agreed that club members will bring their own bag lunch to this event, and the club will provide extras, such as drinks, dessert and paper goods.

Horticulture Co-chair Cathie Cummings stated the herb luncheon will take place on March 20. Members are invited to bring things made with herbs. There is no cost for this event, but a head count is needed.

Hospitality Co-chair Mary Toran noted that the Membership Committee will be providing hospitality for the May 1 meeting. Mary also stated that the menu for the May 15 luncheon at the Needham Golf Club has been set. Mary will send an invitation for the May luncheon to Nancy to be circulated to the membership. With respect to the May 1 Board meeting, this is usually also the President's luncheon. However, because of the date changes related to the GCFM Wallach lecture, it was agreed that Board members should bring a bag lunch to the Board meeting, which will take place immediately following the general club meeting. The club will provide drinks and make use of any leftover goodies from the morning's general meeting. *A motion was made that a bag lunch event be substituted for the usual President's luncheon. Said motion was seconded and passed.*

Membership Co-chair Bonnie Waters passed around contact info for new member Trisha Cruishank. She stated that Nancy Stam has expressed an interest in joining the club in the coming months. Bonnie will make sure that new members are receiving emails and newsletters. It was noted that only two members do not have email.

Newsletter Co-chair Amy Cicala stated that any information and pictures to be included in the May/June issue should be provided by April 10.

Nominating Co-chair Karen Taggart proposed a change to the bylaws to increase the size of the Nominating Committee from 5 to 8 members, the primary purpose of which is to increase the scope of the committee to include newer and younger members. In addition, with two former co-presidents (rather than a single former president) automatically receiving places on the committee, there is also a need to expand the committee to accommodate that change. A motion to amend the bylaws at Section 9 was made as follows:

Nominating shall be a Committee of eight. The Chairperson or Co-Chairpersons (the immediate past Co-Presidents whenever possible) shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee. Three members shall be appointed by the Executive Board. The remaining three members shall be appointed by the Chairperson/chairpersons from the general membership. They shall prepare a slate of Officers and Chairpersons of Standing Committees to be presented to the executive Board at their March meeting. It shall then be presented to the club in April and voted on at the Annual meeting. Said motion was seconded and passed.

Lynne Braley informed the Board that members seem to be shying away from chairing/co-chairing committees. She suggested that committee chairs think about how their committees are run and try to develop collegiality, with the hope that this would inform members about what is involved in chairing the committee, and they then will not feel so challenged by the prospect of chairing. Ensuing discussion included that each committee has a sheet which describes its tasks, and that current co-chairs are an excellent resource to describe the job requirements to a prospective co-chair.

With respect to the flower arranging committee, which Char Sidell was planning to co-chair, Nina Saltus has volunteered to serve as a co-chair.

Following discussion of the difficulties in finding mutually convenient times for committee members to meet, Cathie suggested that one or two committees could meet following the general meetings, thus making it easier to schedule many people at one time.

Program Co-Chair Fawn Hurwitz noted that 22 members attended the pressed flower workshop, which was much enjoyed. She stated that the Tri-Club meeting on March 20 at 7:00 pm at Temple Beth Shalom will feature Kirsten VanDijk, owner of My PassionFlower. Fawn requested that those attending bring snack or finger foods and arrive early (about 6:30) to drop them off.

Fawn reminded the group that the History of the Tulip program has been moved to May 1, and that she has tickets for the April 24 GCFM Wallach lecture at Regis College featuring Francine Thomas (cost: \$20.00). Fawn also reminded the members that Art in Bloom is this weekend, March 9-11.

Fawn and Lori also asked whether NGC would be interested in a joint meeting with TBS on May 21, 2019, at which Tovah Martin would be speaking. Tovah is a horticulturalist who has been featured on PBS. Following discussion, *a motion was made that the Needham Garden Club will contribute a maximum of \$350 for a joint meeting on May 21, 2019 with the Temple Beth Shalom Garden Club at which Tovah Martin will be the speaker. Said motion was seconded and passed.*

Publicity – No update.

Ways and Means Co-chair Jane Lischewski informed the Board that with respect to the Wreath Sale, she has been able to confirm that the club can use the Needham Congregational Church all day on Thursday, Nov. 29 (with member wreath-making to take place from 1-3 pm) and Friday, Nov. 30 for the general club wreath-making; also that the sale can be held Saturday, Dec. 1 from 9:00-2:00. She will find out whether the cost will remain \$700 or be increased due to the club using the church for an additional day. Jane also stated that the yard signs can be recycled for \$2/sign to change the dates; the cost of changing the tent signs is unknown at present. Jane stated that smaller/medium-sized pine cones are needed, and that she will continue to collect donated items to use for the wreath and centerpiece decorations. Following discussion, it was agreed that the 12” wreaths are a good size; the 16” wreaths did not sell as well. Jane will ask the supplier whether 14” wreaths are available. Bonnie will try to get information for Jane concerning pre-decorated wreaths which she saw in Dedham.

Website Chair Nancy Agler stated that the website has been updated. Nancy requested that next year the Website Committee be renamed the Social Media Committee, and noted that Lyn Jekowsky is doing a great job with the club’s Facebook page.

Cathie will forward herb recipes to Nancy for posting on the website.

Yearbook – No update.

Old business – Mary Toran stated that she has provided a flash drive containing the last eight years of minutes and Annual Reports to the library.

New business – Co-President Nancy Agler stated that the Needham Women’s Club has requested help with its Garden Tour, scheduled for June 10, 2018. The Women’s Club would like help with staging, container plantings, and arrangements. Nancy will circulate this request to club members for possible response.

Discussion took place concerning a way to honor Char Sidell. In addition to the planting by individual members of a perennial in their gardens in Char’s memory, *a motion was made to plant a small Japanese*

tree or shrub in Noyes Garden, with a plaque dedicated to departed members of the Needham Garden Club. Said motion was seconded and passed.

Following additional discussion, Amy Cicala offered to collect money to buy books for the Codman Academy Library in Char's memory. Donations for the books will be made by individual members of the club.

Diana offered to order fused glass garden markers in Char's memory for those who would like one. Cost will depend on the number ordered and will be borne by the individual members. The deadline for letting Diana know if you would like a marker is April 6. [Note – deadline changed to April 3.]

Next year's proposed meeting dates were approved, with the November meeting date being Nov 6, not Nov. 13.

The group was reminded that Art in Bloom is this weekend.

The Board was informed that Wednesday, April 11, the Unsung Hero Award program will take place at TBS from 10:30-1:00. The program will include three presenters and lunch. The cost is \$40; checks can be made payable to the GCFM. In response to a request that NGC donate a garden-related item of at least \$25 in value, *a motion was made that the Needham Garden Club purchase a plant costing between \$25 and \$50, to accompany Amy Cicala's donated garden marker, to provide to the Unsung Hero event. Said motion was seconded and passed.*

The meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Brand, Recording Secretary.

Present: Nancy Agler, Lynne Braley, Jane Brand, Anne Carlson, Amy Cicala, Diana Conroy, Cathie Cummings, Cathy Flaherty, Fawn Hurwitz, Lynne Jones, Jane Lischewski, Cathy MacFarlane, Lori Markell, Eileen Mecagni, Nina Saltus, Martha Schleck, Karen Taggart, Mary Toran, Sally Toran, Bonnie Waters and Debbie Wentworth.