

**NEEDHAM GARDEN CLUB
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

April 5, 2022

(16 members present)

Tri-President Debbie Wentworth called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. The meeting took place via Zoom.

Recording Secretary:

A motion was made by Jane Lischewski and seconded by Anne Carlson to approve the minutes from the March 2022 Board meeting; said motion was approved.

Recording Secretary Jane Brand also requested that officers and committee chairs provide information for compiling the club's Annual Report, as set forth in an email sent previously.

Corresponding Secretary:

Bonnie Waters reported that one card was sent to a member who had had surgery and was undergoing rehabilitation. She also shared a card from the family of past president Fran Phillips, expressing appreciation for the club's thoughtfulness and sympathy following Fran's passing.

Treasurer/Finance Committee:

The Treasurer's Report for March was circulated to the Board. The March 2022 Treasurer's Report reflected the following. The month began with \$19,910.45 in the checking account and cash on hand of \$280, for a total of \$20,190.45. Income for the month was \$203.94; expenses were \$1,015.00. At the end of the month, the checking account balance was \$19,099.39 and cash on hand was \$280, for a total of \$19,379.39.

Communications Committee:

Publicity — Gail Davis reported that she is working on publicity for the May 21 plant sale. She has reserved the use of the electronic sign by the RTS, prepared a flyer for members to send to friends and for use on social media, and will send articles to the local newspapers.

Yearbook — Trish Cruickshank requested that she be provided updated membership and committee lists, and program information, once those materials are ready. The Community Outreach chairs stated they had revised the committee description, and will provide same to Trish.

Facebook — No update.

Website — Nancy Agler stated that the website has been updated.

Community Outreach Committee: Co-chairs Lynne Jones and Cathie Cummings reported that they had been to Russell's to purchase new plant material and have refreshed the library urns; photos will be provided for the newsletter. With regard to Noyes Garden, the garden is being tidied, and compost is arriving Saturday. Plans are underway to plot the current plants and prepare a new planting scheme to include native plants and plants with winter/year-round interest. Suggestions concerning new plants are welcomed.

Flower Arranging Committee: No update.

Horticulture Committee: Co-chair Trish Cruickshank reported that a letter concerning the May 21 plant sale will be sent to the club's members shortly. A container planting workshop will be held Tuesday, April 12 from 1:00-4:00 pm in Lyn Jekowsky's yard. Coir and potting soil will be provided, as well as pots and seedlings. Those donating plants are asked to pot them up four weeks before the sale, so they look good on sale day. Martha Schleck will discuss possible wholesale purchases from Wilson Farms with the chairs.

Hospitality Committee: Co-chair Cathy Flaherty reported that a meeting is planned with Needham Golf Club staff tomorrow concerning holding the May 17 Annual Meeting and Luncheon there. Golf Club member Nancy Yablonski agreed to join the meeting. Per the proposed contract, the food cost will be \$40 per person, and there is a room fee of \$250. Discussion ensued about the possibility of the club covering the cost of the room fee, so as to keep the per person cost of the luncheon down. If the golf club plans do not work out, use of a room at Elm Bank and catering by Linden St Deli were suggested as an alternative, subject to room availability at Elm Bank. It was agreed that there would be no hospitality table at the April meeting, due to the rising number of COVID cases.

Membership Committee: Co-chair Fawn Hurwitz stated that new member Lori Hall will be presented with her apron at the April meeting. She will circulate Lori's contact information. Treasurer Nancy Agler stated she needs a current member count for purposes of paying GCFM dues.

Newsletter Committee: Co-editor Carol Alper will be preparing the next issue of the newsletter, scheduled to come out on May 1. The deadline for submitting articles and announcements is April 10. If your submission will be late, please notify Carol so that she can hold space when laying out the newsletter.

Nominating Committee: Co-chair Anne Carlson reported that committee assignments are being tweaked and should be completed soon.

Program Committee: Co-chair Bonnie Waters noted that the next program, on April 26, will feature Chuck Doughty speaking on shade plant gardening. Following discussion, *Jane Lischewski moved that attendees be required to wear masks during the meeting; said motion was seconded by Martha Schleck and approved.* A box of masks will be made available at the door. An email concerning this requirement will be sent to members.

Ways and Means Committee: Co-chair Fabienne Madsen stated that the wreath and arrangement workshops and sale have been scheduled for December 1-3, 2022. A bow making workshop will be held on November 3 at 10:30 am at Lynne Braley's house. The deadline for signing up to make your own wreath will be September 20 (the date of the September general meeting). Wreaths will be delivered directly to the Congregational Church on December 1. A task list related to the workshops and sale have been prepared, to include such things as organizing greens, preparing oasis, wreath-making, publicity, manning the cashier table, bin organization and clean up; several members have already volunteered to fill some of these roles. Members are asked to keep an eye out for pretty pots in good condition, sized 4-8", and to speak to the co-chairs before purchasing any additional greens or decorations.

Old Business: None.

New business:

1. Scholarship Update – Candidates’ applications are being reviewed. The applications were screened this year; while there are not a lot of candidates, they have strong applications. The Board will be advised once a decision has been made, and the winner’s name will be revealed shortly before graduation.
2. Meeting with New Library Director – The presidents recently met with the new library director, Kim Hewitt. Kim was informed of the arrangement the library has with the club, involving free use of the community room for meetings in exchange for book donations, planting the library urns, providing arrangements for the reception area, and four free passes to Garden in the Woods. She was appreciative of learning this information.
3. Memorial Book Donation for Past President Fran Phillips – It was agreed that, per past practice, the Membership Committee will contact the library for book suggestions so that a book can be purchased by the club and donated to the library in Fran’s memory.

There being no further business, and *upon motion made by Jane Brand, seconded by Jane Lischewski and approved, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.*

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Brand, Recording Secretary

Present: Nancy Agler, Anne Brain, Jane Brand, Anne Carlson, Trish Cruickshank, Cathie Cummings, Gail Davis, Cathy Flaherty, Fawn Hurwitz, Lynne Jones, Jane Lischewski, Fabienne Madsen, Martha Schleck, Bonnie Waters, Debbie Wentworth and Nancy Yablonski.