

**NEEDHAM GARDEN CLUB
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 6, 2021
(19 members present)**

Co-President Jane Lischewski called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. The meeting took place via Zoom.

Recording Secretary:

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the March Board meeting; said motion was approved.

The Recording Secretary reminded those present, with reference to a March 30, 2021 email, that a few requests for committee reports to include in the club's Annual Report are still outstanding. Jane B requested that all outstanding reports be provided by the end of the month.

A motion was made to confirm the Board's prior approval of \$250 of expenses for the Tri-Club meeting in March; said motion was seconded and approved.

In follow-up to a vote taken in March 2020, *a motion was made to increase the Needham Art in Bloom stipend per team from \$35 to \$50; said motion was seconded and approved.*

Corresponding Secretary:

Bonnie Waters stated that two more sympathy cards had been sent, to past president Joanne Seiden and to member Isabell Wells.

Treasurer/Finance Committee:

The March Treasurer's Report was circulated to the Board. The March report reflects the following: March began with \$19,555.62 in the checking account and cash on hand of \$280, for a total of \$19,835.62. There was no income for the month; expenses were \$437.50. At the end of the month, the checking account balance was \$19,118.12 and cash on hand was \$280, for a total of \$19,398.12.

Nancy shared that over the course of the last couple years that the Wreath and Arrangement Sale was held, it made about \$530 on the make-your-own wreath sale, about \$4600 at the public sale, and had about \$3000 in expenses.

Nancy stated that the Finance Committee will be meeting soon to discuss the budget for the coming year. She requested that committee chairs let the Finance Committee know of their budgetary needs. Nancy agreed to circulate to the committee chairs their current budget allocations.

Communications Committee:

Publicity — Gail Davis noted that she had seen other organizations advertising their scholarships in the local newspaper, and questioned whether NGC should do the same. Discussion ensued, including that such advertising would be beneficial to NGC, that there was some concern about the high school's vetting process, and that it is too late to run an ad this year because the high school deadline for submission of scholarship applications was April 5. Jane L will contact the high school to find out when they begin their scholarship application process; this will enable the club to time publicity, in the form of local newspaper articles and Facebook posts, to coincide with the process at the high school.

Yearbook —Trish Cruickshank had no update.

Facebook — Lyn Jekowsky had no update, but requested that she be informed of deadlines and/or events that she can post on the club’s Facebook page. She also stated that she will be looking into ways to re-vamp the FB page.

Website —Nancy Agler requested that she be sent the Needham Art in Bloom video link for posting to the Members Only portion of the website.

Community Outreach Committee:

Lynne Jones stated that the committee is starting to plan Garden Therapy events for next year. One facility had inquired if the previously planned Garden Thersapy for April 2021 would go forward; they were informed that it would not, in light of the restrictions still in effect relating to the covid-19 pandemic. Garden Therapy for Wingate has been scheduled for September; Avita has been scheduled for October. Jane L noted that no garden therapy events would be scheduled before the fall; at that point, determinations will be made on a month-by-month basis. Some discussion followed about possibly requesting that participation be limited to residents who have been vaccinated.

Lynne also noted that Noanett Gold compost had been ordered for use at Noyes Garden.

Lynne stated that replacement urns for the library have been extensively researched. Two options available through Wayfair have been identified; one with a height of 32”, which would require a base (for example of concrete pavers), and having a ‘colonial’ appearance; the other with a height of about 36”, which would not require a base, and has a cylindrical shape. Both are lighter weight and rated for outdoor use. It was noted that the iron railings surrounding the urn locations are 36” tall. Two of the shorter urns would run about \$250; two of the larger urns would cost approximately \$600. Discussion ensued concerning the pros and cons of the two styles, cost, height and whether to retain ownership of the urns or donate them to the library. Following discussion, there was a consensus to purchase two of the taller urns in black, and for the club to retain ownership of them. *Martha S made a motion to purchase two urns for the library in an amount not to exceed \$700; said motion was seconded and approved.*

Flower Arranging Committee:

Carole Grosberg gave an update about the Museum of Fine Art’s Art in Bloom, which she and Debbie Kraft are participating in as representatives of the NGC. She reported expenses in the amount of \$268.84. She also described the procedure whereby groups could purchase ‘tickets’ to view the virtual Art in Bloom with commentary. After discussing the cost and potential logistics of same, the Board declined to take advantage of that opportunity.

Horticulture Committee:

Trish Cruickshank noted that the plant sale is scheduled for May 22. Since it will be held outside, the Congregational Church is thought likely to approve its going forward as scheduled, although entry to the building may be limited, and there may be sanitizing requirements for any furniture borrowed. Ideas popular at past plant sales included container gardens, shade plants and native plants; flats of mixed tomato plants also were suggested. Garden accessories were not popular and will not be continued. Members will be notified to prepare plants for the sale, and to do any transplanting into pots at least two weeks before the sale. Lyn J offered her backyard for holding a workshop on Thursday, May 6, to make container gardens and the like to sell. Diana offered to meet with Trish and Terry to share past experience with the sale, and suggested a Zoom meeting for the committee to get

organized. Questions to be answered for this year's plant sale include whether to have a Square and iPad or phone to permit credit card purchases; pricing; and logistics around tables/areas to be set up.

Hospitality Committee:

Cathy Flaherty stated that the Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 18. The Needham Golf Club is still holding the club's \$250 deposit from 2020. However, the golf club has stated it will not be holding functions until further notice. Following discussion, it was agreed that Cathy would request that the money be refunded to the club. Cathy suggested that the VFW might be an appropriate alternate venue; Anne C also offered her yard. Martha requested that the Hospitality Committee research alternatives and report back to the Board. It was noted that a back-up Zoom plan might be necessary.

Membership Committee:

Eileen Mecagni will prepare a letter to the membership concerning paying dues for the coming year.

Newsletter Committee:

Carol Alper stated that the next newsletter will be prepared by Amy Cicala. She noted that the many topics covered in today's meeting (Art in Bloom, Annual Meeting, dues, plant sale) should be communicated to Amy for inclusion in the newsletter. The next deadline for submissions is April 11. Even if the newsletter item cannot be submitted by the deadline, she asked that Amy be notified so that a placeholder for the item could be included in initial drafts of the newsletter.

Nominating Committee:

Anne Carlson stated that the committee has met several times to discuss who might be suitable for filling open positions, and will be reaching out to those people. The committee plans to have the new slate ready in time for publication in the May/June newsletter.

Program Committee:

Bonnie Waters reported that the committee is in a bit of a bind, since it is not yet known when the library will reopen for meetings, nor is it known whether/when the Congregational Church, as a potential alternative site, will be able to accommodate more than the current occupancy limit of 25 for Fellowship and Linden Halls. Bonnie stated that the September and November speakers had already been postponed for a year, and that their programs were not conducive to the Zoom format. It also was noted that if floral arrangement presentations take place over Zoom, opportunity drawings cannot be held. Pros and cons of Zoom vs live meetings, and seeking alternative venues and speakers were discussed. No conclusions concerning the fall meetings were reached at this time.

The April 27 meeting will take place over Zoom and will feature Nancy Guest speaking about 'Your Body in the Garden.' The presentation will start at 9:30 and she will send a handout in advance of the meeting. Martha will coordinate Zoom logistics with her.

Ways and Means Committee:

Diana Conroy shared that the Committee is planning to hold an outdoor meeting at Fabienne Madsen's home. With regard to the signs advertising the Wreath and Arrangement Sale, the suggestion had been made to have the signs read that the sale will take place 'on the first Saturday in December,' rather than having to change the date every year. It also was thought that a greater emphasis on advertising on social media should be made. Diana also requested that anyone coming across white birch bark collect it for use at the Wreath and Arrangement Sale. She also shared that

any excess ornaments made by the Festival of Trees team would be donated to the Wreath and Arrangement Sale.

Old Business:

None.

New business:

1. GCFM Board Members –
The GCFM is looking for Board Members. Information about the responsibilities was shared. Anyone interested should contact Martha or Jane L.

2. NGC Scholarship –
The club's scholarship recipient has been selected, but the winner's identity has not yet been disclosed to the club, as it is a blind selection process. Following discussion about whether the scholarship check should be made payable to the recipient or the college, it was agreed that the club would continue its practice of making the scholarship check out to the recipient.

There being no further business, and *upon motion made and approved, the meeting adjourned at 11:24 am.*

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Brand, Recording Secretary

Present: Nancy Agler, Carol Alper, Jane Brand, Anne Carlson, Amy Cicala, Diana Conroy, Trish Cruickshank, Gail Davis, Cathy Flaherty, Carole Grosberg, Pat Hession, Lyn Jekowsky, Lynne Jones, Jane Lischewski, Terry Luskin, Eileen Mecagni, Martha Schleck, Bonnie Waters and Debbie Wentworth.

Also in attendance: Lindy Roethlisberger.