

Needham Garden Club General Meeting Minutes September 18, 2018

President Diana Conroy called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. She welcomed the members and guests to the first meeting of the new program year. Diana thanked the hospitality committee for providing the baked goods and beverages, and Lynne Braley for providing the floral arrangement, which will then go to the library reception area after the meeting.

Recording Secretary – Diana informed the group that in an effort to be more green, at future meetings a single copy of the minutes of the previous meeting will be provided on the table in the back of the room. Members can review it at the meeting if they wish. Anyone wanting to receive their own copy of the minutes can email Jane Brand and request same. A motion was made to accept the minutes from the previous general meeting in May; said motion was seconded and passed.

Corresponding Secretary – The corresponding secretary provides cards from the club to members for both happy and sad occasions, so please feel free to share both good and bad news with the corresponding secretary via her email, which she checks regularly.

Treasurer/Finance Committee – All reimbursement requests *must* have the receipt and be accompanied by a pink reimbursement slip. The pink slips are available on the table in the back of the room. The club is working on getting copies of the tax exempt letters which members can use when making club purchases. In an effort to make the club greener, copies of the treasurer's report will no longer be left on the table in the back of the room, but any member wishing to have a copy can request same from Martha Schleck.

Community Outreach – Debbie Wentworth thanked those who watered Noyes Garden and the library urns over the summer. The library urns are still doing well, and will need to be watered until the seasonal arrangements go in. A sign-up sheet to help with watering for the fall is on the table in the back of the room.

There is also a sign-up sheet for Garden Therapy on October 25.

Flower Arranging – Lyn Jekowsky stated that the next meeting on October 16 will feature a club mixer, with members designing tablescapes. The theme is dinner for two in a city or region of the world. The committee will divide the participants into groups of 4-6, with a captain. Each group will have someone experienced in floral design. Card tables only will be allowed; if a team does not have a card table, let Lyn know and she will find one. There is a sign-up sheet for the event on the back table. Teams will be made up after today's meeting. A luncheon for members will follow the October meeting.

Horticulture – Karen Taggart informed the club that there will be two workshops scheduled this fall. One, in September, will be a "rolling workshop", where participants will learn how to divide and transplant peonies, by visiting members' gardens to do this. In October, there will be an amaryllis planting workshop, where amaryllis will be planted for the wreath and arrangement sale, and those who wish to plant one for personal use can do so as well.

Hospitality – Mary Toran stated that there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the back of the room for the October luncheon.

Membership – Bonnie Waters stated that the club has three new members: Anne Brain, Nancy Jablonsky and Cindy Carson (who is the president of the TBS Garden Club). Each of the new members was presented with an apron. Bonnie stated that information packets, containing an application and programming info, would be available for those who may be interested in joining the club.

Newsletter – Amy Cicala stated that the deadline for the November/December newsletter is October 10th. She requested that articles and photos be submitted by then. It was noted that the current edition of the newsletter has been posted on the website.

Nominating – No update.

Publicity – No update.

Ways and Means – Jane Lischewski stated that several sign-up sheets are available on the back table relating to the wreath and arrangement sale, including sign-ups to provide greens, to display yard signs, to attend the members' make-your-own wreath workshop (Nov. 29 from 1-3:00 pm; set up in the morning), to work at the all-club wreath-making workshop (Nov. 30, 9:00 – 1:00), and to work at the sale itself (Dec 1.) In addition, there will be a bow-making workshop at Lynne Braley's home on Nov. 8 at 10:30 a.m.

Social Media – Members and guests were encouraged to visit the club's website (needhamgardenclub.com), and the club's Facebook page. Both have been updated. Yearbook corrections, if any, will be posted on the website.

Yearbook – Cathie Cummings stated that the yearbooks are being handed out today at the meeting to those in attendance. There will be extra copies available for new members. Members should let the Yearbook Committee know if there are changes which need to be made to the yearbook; any such changes will be publicized to the club.

Program – Fawn Hurwitz introduced the guest presenter, Evelyn Lee of Butternut Gardens in CT. Evelyn is a flower farmer and floral designer, and grows some 45,000 flowers and greens herself, doing so organically. She enjoys sharing her flowers and nurturing both flowers and people. She has had extensive training, and is a CT Advanced Master Gardener. She will be sharing at today's meeting her knowledge of creating not just a variety of floral arrangements, but also of coordinating tablescapes.

The business meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m., at which point the presentation by Evelyn Lee began.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Brand, Recording Secretary.