

Needham Garden Club Board Minutes
June 11, 2019
(20 Board members present)

President Nancy Agler called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Anne Carlson hosted the meeting, with Cathy Flaherty co-hosting.

Recording Secretary – The minutes from the last Board meeting previously were emailed to the Board. Upon motion voted on by the Board, the minutes were approved.

Corresponding Secretary – Corresponding Secretary Bonnie Waters reported that two cards had been sent to members dealing with health issues, and a visit paid to a member currently in a rehabilitation hospital. The recent passing of a former member was discussed; a card will be sent to her family.

Treasurer – The May Treasurer’s Report previously was circulated by Treasurer Martha Schleck. The beginning checking account balance was \$19,304.99 and cash on hand was \$280.00, for a total of \$19,584.99. Total income for this period was \$2,835.00 and total expenses were \$1995.83. The ending checking account balance was \$20,144.16 and cash on hand was \$280.00, for a total of \$20,424.16. Martha reported that the plant sale raised approximately \$1680.00; expenses of approximately \$65 and the church rental fee of \$150 have yet to be deducted.

Communications – Cathie Cummings asked that committee chairs provide information concerning events they are planning for the coming year for inclusion in the Yearbook. Cathie will be assisting Trish C with preparation of the Yearbook this year. Fabienne volunteered to design the cover for the Yearbook. Lyn J reported that the club’s Facebook page had advertised the plant sale. Per Nancy, the club’s website will be updated with new information.

Community Outreach – Debbie Wentworth will pass along to the incoming chairs the extra silver Revere bowls used for garden therapy. Cathie C reported that Lynne J has been contacting nursing homes regarding garden therapy and the committee would try to include North Hill this year; so far only one garden therapy date has been tentatively scheduled.

The committee will meet next week concerning the library urn arrangements for the summer. With respect to library arrangements, a request was made that the list of all library arrangement volunteers be circulated to the volunteers, even though this is an ongoing process with frequent updates. This will permit volunteers to trade weeks if a conflict should arise.

With respect to the small poster and bookmarks kept in the library reception area, Karen T will provide the picture used for the library poster to Nancy, and this will be updated with club contact information. Eileen M stated that she replenishes the garden club bookmarks in the library when they run out; the bookmarks also will be updated to include contact information.

A sign-up sheet for summer library arrangements and for watering Noyes Garden and the library urns will be circulated at the meeting. The residents at 66 Noyes St. have stated that the club can use their faucet for watering Noyes Garden.

Flower Arranging – Nina Saltus and Lyn Jekowsky provided the following update. One additional tea table centerpiece volunteer is needed for the October 15 meeting; Cathie C volunteered.

The theme for the October team mixer will be “A Meal for Two in a Wilderness Region,” and should include a floral arrangement and incorporate place settings. Card tables will be used; a \$25 stipend for flowers will be provided.

On October 25, our club will be providing floral arrangements for the high school's Distinguished Career Award event. Debbie Kraft has agreed to do the large podium arrangement. Centerpieces for the tables also will be provided.

The committee is considering offering a Fairy Garden workshop in February, precise date to be determined. Also, a "green" workshop on May 12 at Elm Bank is being planned, at which Debbie Kraft will teach the group about floral design without using oasis.

Lyn stated with respect to the Festival of Trees, that she had located a 4-foot tree, but may continue looking for a larger one. She also asked club members to be on the lookout for ornaments of woodland creatures, and shared some that she had found to provide an idea of what the Festival of Trees team is looking for.

Horticulture – Karen Taggart thanked club members for participating in the plant sale. The participation rate this year was very high. The committee will meet to review what worked and what didn't, but there was general agreement that the date worked well and the location was excellent. Diana stated she had reserved the church for June 6 next year, but could change the date to May 30 (which is not Memorial Day weekend.) The Committee will determine the date of next year's plant sale and will let Diana know, so that appropriate rental arrangements can be made.

Hospitality – Cathy Flaherty circulated a sign up sheet for committees to provide goodies for the general meetings. Although the club can provide napkins, if a committee wishes to provide themed napkins, the cost can be reimbursed.

Membership – Eileen stated that there are still some members who have not paid their dues; all have been called at least once. Following discussion of the list of members who have not yet paid, the Board agreed that some of the individuals, due to illness, would remain in the Yearbook but dues would not be pursued.

Newsletter – Carol Alper asked that information for inclusion in the September-October newsletter be sent to her by August 10, even if not all details are known. Having even basic information will permit her to hold space in the newsletter for a few extra days.

Nominating – No update.

Program – Nancy shared that she had received positive feedback about the presentation by Suzanne Mahler.

Bonnie Waters circulated a list of programs for the upcoming year, summarized as follows: September – Flower arrangements for different rooms in the home featuring widely available floral material, with Debbie Kraft; October – Mixer, organized by the Flower Arranging Committee; November – Floral designs for the fall, holidays and winter, with Thelma Shoneman; December – Wreath, Arrangement and Jewelry Sale; January – A behind-the-scenes look at flower arranging at the MFA, led by MFA Senior Associates; February – Drought tolerant plants, with Jen Kettle; March – Tri-Club meeting - program TBD; April – Best practices for preventing injury and maximizing enjoyment in the garden, led by fitness professional Susan Guest.

Ways and Means – Jane Lischewski stated that the dates for the wreath and arrangement sale and preparations for same will be December 5 (set up and make-your-own wreath), December 6 (workshop to make wreaths and arrangements) and December 7 (wreath, arrangement and jewelry sale). Jane L stated that the church had been reserved, and the committee's files and forms will be provided to the

new chairs. A suggestion was made to add house plants or small hostess arrangements or teacher gifts to the items to be sold.

Old Business —

The scholarship check was presented and a photo of this year's very impressive recipient obtained. A thank you note to the club from him has been received. Brief discussion ensued about whether in the future, if no appropriate candidates are found for the scholarship, the scholarship could be awarded to a previous recipient upon proof of good grades and the like; no decision was reached and this issue may be revisited.

New Business —

1. Nancy stated that Doug Tallamy spoke at the GCFM Annual Meeting, and he was a very impressive speaker, whose presentation focused on the need to increase native plantings in our yards to provide appropriate habitat for those creatures which support our food web. Nancy said she would look into getting him as a speaker in Needham, and discussion ensued about whether our club could join with other sponsors to bring him here.
2. Nancy also shared with the club the new GCFM President's "Plant Native" mission, and circulated materials relating to same. Discussion ensued about whether, in March on the date the club has reserved at the library, we could put together a "green" event with a local person(s) from the town or a professor relating to RTS activities or native plants.
3. Nancy circulated the award given at the GCFM Annual Meeting, honoring our club for 80 years of membership.
4. Nancy informed those present about the GCFM Flower School, and suggested members check out the improved GCFM website for information about environmental school and coffee meetings that the GCFM organizes.
5. Nancy also informed the group about a website called recyclesmart.org, which can help answer recycling questions.
6. Bylaws changes will be voted on at the October general meeting. At the September Board meeting, the Board will determine what procedure will be followed at the time of the vote.
7. Diana shared a request received from a local Needham business owner who is looking for help planting native plants in beds to be created in Avery Square in Needham Heights. After discussion, it was agreed that this is not a project that the club will be able to assist with. Diana will so advise the individual.
8. Nancy, as president, will work on archiving club records. Nina has materials, including old photographs, to be included with the archived materials. According to the Yearbook, the Membership Committee maintains the club archives. After discussion, it was felt that next year, after the archiving has been brought up-to-date, additional members can be assigned to the Membership Committee to keep the archived materials updated.

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Brand, Recording Secretary

Present: Nancy Agler, Carol Alper, Anne Brain, Jane Brand, Anne Carlson, Diana Conroy, Cathie Cummings, Cathy Flaherty, Carole Grosberg, Pat Hession, Lyn Jekowsky, Jane Lischewski, Fabienne Madsen, Eileen Mecagni, Nina Saltus, Martha Schleck, Karen Taggart, Mary Toran, Bonnie Waters, and Debbie Wentworth.