

Needham Garden Club Board Minutes

June 13, 2017

(14 Board members present)

President Diana Conroy called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. She thanked Lynne Braley for hosting the meeting.

Recording Secretary – Outgoing Secretary Mary Toran previously emailed May Board minutes to the Board, and these were accepted. Mary stated that the Board and general meeting minutes for 2010-2015 will be going to the library for archiving. Mary will do any necessary formatting work for the archiving over the summer. Mary was thanked for her 7 years of service in this role.

Corresponding Secretary – Outgoing Secretary Nina Saltus will be passing on NGC stationery to incoming Secretary Cathy MacFarlane. All Board members having NGC stationery at home are asked to bring it to the next meeting for Cathy. It was discussed that cards for Kay Taylor would be appreciated. Club members have offered gardening assistance as well.

Treasurer – Martha Schleck previously emailed the May Treasurer's Report to the Board. The beginning checking account balance was \$21,166.56 and cash on hand was \$280.00, for a total of \$21,446.56. Total income for May was \$3426.00, and total expenses for May were \$1558.45. Ending checking account balance was \$23,034.11 and cash on hand was \$280.00, for a total of \$23,314.11. Per Martha, the June plant sale at the NBA Fair did very well. The precise figure for the plant sale will be provided in a future report.

Community Outreach – Debbie Wentworth thanked Karen Taggart for her longtime work creating the outdoor potted arrangements at the library. The club is seeking someone to take over that task. The suggestion was made to invite a group to attend a replanting and coffee. Next replanting should be around July 4th, to change to summer, drought-resistant plants. Debbie reported a good response to the summer watering schedule for the Noyes Garden and the library pots. A summer arrangement will be provided for indoor display at the library.

Flower Arranging – Char Sidell stated that her committee has decided to continue with table themes for the October meeting. This year's theme will be "gourds" (which can include pumpkins). Sign-ups for the October meeting will take place at the September meeting. Among other ideas being considered is a workshop to make a small succulent wreath.

Horticulture – Cathie Cummings reported that the tour of the Natick Organic Farm went well. Regarding the June plant sale, Cathie reported there were lots of plants and help at the sale. The Garden Club's location had good foot traffic but was too loud. For next year, committee will re-think the kids' plants, and also consider having a "master gardener" present to answer questions for a couple hours during the Fair. Also, the membership information will be situated more prominently. The tri-fold membership display prepared by Gail Davis will be used at general meetings as well. Diana Conroy will be point person for interactions with the NBA; she and Nancy Agler will share occasional attendance at NBA meetings. Cathie reminded those present about the June 20 Garden Stroll. For next March's meeting, the committee is considering an herb theme, with a book to be discussed (e.g., The Language of Flowers) and herbal teas and herb cheeses to be served at the meeting. Karen Taggart will circulate information about visiting Suzanne Mahler's garden (Suzanne was a GCFM speaker), which is best done after mid-July. Karen also will provide information to the members about the July 8 Generous Gardeners Garden Tour in Gloucester.

Hospitality – Mary Toran circulated a sign-up sheet to provide food for the general meetings. It was agreed that the club would like to return to the Needham Golf Club for the next luncheon in May. Mary will follow-up with the Needham Golf Club regarding this.

Membership – Bonnie Waters reported there are still a few members who have not paid their dues for the coming year. After discussion, it was agreed that a final effort would be made by the Membership Committee to obtain the dues, and to let the members in question know that if their dues are not received by the deadline in late June, their names will not appear in the next yearbook. The importance of dues payment was stressed, in that a portion of the membership dues pays insurance and umbrella organizations. Bonnie raised the question of revisiting that portion of the by-laws which state that a person must be an active member for 8 years before being allowed to switch to associate status. Following discussion, it was agreed this issue concerning the by-laws will be put on the agenda for a future meeting.

Newsletter – Jane Brand stated that she will be preparing the Sept/Oct newsletter, and requested that all committee information to be included in the newsletter be forwarded to her by August 10. Martha Schleck will provide an email list of the committee heads. Carol Alper and Amy Cicala will be preparing the remaining newsletters for the coming year.

Nominating – Lynne Braley stated that the committee chairs have been emailed lists of their committee members.

Program – No update.

Publicity – Gail Davis stated that she expects to submit for publication a photo of the new Board once she receives it from Amy Cicala. Karen Taggart will send Gail the program schedule for the coming year. Per Karen Taggart, the high school senior who received a \$1000 scholarship from the Garden Club has an interest in the Community Farm and conservation. Diana Conroy will contact the recipient's family to arrange for a photo of the recipient with an NGC member for publication.

Ways and Means – No update

Website – Nancy Agler stated that she will be updating the website with new photos.

Yearbook – Nina Saltus and Karen Taggart reiterated the June 30 deadline for all updated information for the yearbook, and also reminded the committee chairs to provide their programming information.

Old business – Per Diana Conroy, the group working on the Festival of Trees continues to meet. This project is our donation to MassHort. It will include a \$75 gift card to Sweet Basil and a \$25 gift card to Needham Center Fine Wines. A motion was made to increase the budget for this project up to \$300; said motion was approved.

New business – none.

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Brand, Recording Secretary.

Present: Nancy Agler, Lynne Braley, Jane Brand, Diana Conroy, Cathie Cummings, Gail Davis, Eileen Mecagni, Nina Saltus, Martha Schleck, Char Sidell, Karen Taggart, Mary Toran, Bonnie Waters, and Debbie Wentworth.