

Needham Garden Club Board Minutes
June 12, 2018
(15 Board members present)

President Nancy Agler called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m. She thanked Anne Carlson and Mary Toran for hosting the meeting.

Recording Secretary – The minutes from the last Board meeting were previously emailed to the Board. Upon vote by the Board, these were approved.

Corresponding Secretary – Corresponding Secretary Cathy MacFarlane was unable to attend, but the following information was provided. Maureen McCaffrey had sent a thank-you note to the club for its thoughtfulness in sending a sympathy card for a death in her family. Lyn J. has been experiencing some health issues; Cathy is aware and will send a card. A note was sent to Winnie West, whose husband has been ill. Mary Toran agreed to host the May 7 meeting next year; this is the Presidents' Luncheon meeting.

Treasurer – Martha Schleck previously emailed the May Treasurer's Report and the budget for the coming year to the Board; copies were also available at the meeting. The beginning checking account balance was \$21,847.19 and cash on hand was \$280.00, for a total of \$22,127.19. Total income for May was \$1705.00, and total expenses for May were \$1018.67. Ending checking account balance was \$22,533.52 and cash on hand was \$280.00, for a total of \$22,813.52. Per Martha, the June plant sale at the NBA Fair did very well, bringing in \$807 (as opposed to \$559 from last year). Figures from the plant sale have not yet been included in the Treasurer's Report because the June books have not yet been done. Diana made four deliveries for plant sale purchasers, and one customer decided to buy more when she learned the plants could be delivered. Diana offered to do this again next year.

It was discussed that the cost of having a table at the street fair next year is expected to rise significantly, to \$300, according to word from the Newton Needham Chamber of Commerce. It was agreed that this is very high, and discussion ensued about possibly holding a sale at the Needham Historical Society. The cost of a business membership is also expected to increase.

With regard to the budget, there was some discussion, as follows: The Yearbook has been allotted \$600; although the most recent printing estimate is \$75, it was decided to leave that allocation alone for now. Martha also stated that the Finance Committee is trying to streamline the records by having fewer line items and organizing items by committee.

Community Outreach – Lynne Jones stated that the committee was able to secure a second Garden Therapy date at Briarwood for next year. She thanked Karen Taggart for her work on the library urns, which are very colorful. Discussion ensued about the urns and their location. The self-watering urns Anne had looked into were not felt to be helpful to reducing the need for watering due to their size and the space limitations of the urns' present location. Also, the wood bases for the urns are rotting. It was felt that conversation with the library about alternative locations might be warranted.

Lynne and Debbie are planning to buy a small shrub for planting at Noyes Garden this summer. The space for the shrub is fairly small — 3-3.5 feet in diameter.

Discussion occurred about where to purchase flowers for Garden Therapy, and in what quantity. Following discussion, it was felt that purchasing flowers at Trader Joe's was easiest; getting to other flower shops/markets may be a bit burdensome when doing the myriad other tasks required to prepare for a Garden Therapy event. All agreed that more flowers should be purchased; extras, if

any, can be made into baskets to leave at reception areas, etc. There are sufficient funds to purchase more flowers. It was noted that Susan at Trader Joe's will permit the Garden Club to take flowers (for free) that have been moved to the back (where a couple flowers in the bunch are unsellable, but others are fine). Just need to call ahead. To assist future leaders of the Outreach Committee, it was suggested that the current co-chairs create a document setting forth where they usually buy flowers and how many bunches they typically need for a Garden Therapy event.

Flower Arranging – Incoming co-chair Nina Saltus stated that the committee has been working on the October tablescapes/team-building program. Sign-ups for this event will be in September. The committee is considering as a theme 'tablescapes from a world city.' Bonnie requested a title and description of the program for her handout to potential members. The committee is also considering a March workshop, but this is still in flux. Among complicating factors, the date of the Tri-Club Meeting is not yet known. It was felt that this past year, having a workshop and the Tri-Club meeting on the same day made for a long Garden Club day.

At this point, meeting dates for next year were reviewed, consistent with previous handouts. By way of update, it was noted that a speaker had been found for the Nov. 20 meeting, which is two days before Thanksgiving. Either Flower Arranging or Horticulture will have a workshop for the March general meeting. That date is slated for March 19, but it was suggested that one of the committees double-check that the date has been held by the library. As the Tri-Club meeting date is unknown, that may impact the general meeting/workshop planning.

Horticulture – Cathie Cummings reported that the June plant sale, was a success both financially and in the quantity of plants that were available for sale. Suggestions for next year: use stakes, not tape, for labeling clay pots (some of the clay pots lost their labels, which makes them harder to sell); Vivian's "kitchen gardens" sold well, and would be a nice addition for next year as well; we should ensure that the actual sale times on the website are correct.

Hospitality – Mary Toran circulated a sign-up sheet for committees to provide food for the general meetings. Diana volunteered to help Sue Abbott with the tea table duties for the Feb 26 meeting.

Membership – Bonnie Waters reported that the the committee met and divided responsibilities. They are in the process of collecting the last of the dues. Following discussion, it was agreed that Georgia Burke-Berg and Ada Suydam should be taken off the membership list. Diana will call Susan Abbott and Maryjane Casey; Cathie also to call Maryjane; Anne to call Trish Cruikshank. Bonnie also stated that she needs new inserts for the name badges; she will check at Staples. Anne offered to assist with the program on her computer.

Newsletter – Carol Alper stated that she had heard about several fall events, and requested that sending even barebones information concerning events, and then supplementing it later, would be helpful to permit her to get an early start on preparing the Sept/Oct newsletter. The deadline is August 10 for submissions. She would like to have a photo and story for the scholarship, as well as for the Unsung Hero Award and plant sale photos. Anne has a photo she can send for the Unsung Hero Award.

Nominating – No update.

Program – No formal update was provided, although a list of programs was available. Briefly, the programs will include the following: September – Evelyn Lee, Butternut Gardens, CT (demonstration of tablescapes and floral arranging using farm-grown flowers); November —

Candace Morgenstern, RI (floral design); January — Sue Robinson (lecture about bees, and collecting and making honey); February — Rebecca Warner, author of *The Sustainable-Enough Garden* (lecture about gardening that is less work and better for the environment, including soil improvement, plant choices, planting techniques); April — Suzanne Mahler (lecture about transplanting and dividing, including division indicators, best time to divide and transplant; tools and methods also covered).

Publicity – No update.

Ways and Means – Jane Lischewski stated the committee will be obtaining pine cones and lotus pods for spray painting soon. She agreed to provide for the newsletter a blurb about the types of materials the committee is collecting for use at the wreath and arrangement sale.

Social Media – Nancy Agler stated that the website has been updated, including with new photos from the plant sale. She also stated that Lyn has been doing a great job with the Facebook page. Both are looking for photos to post. If you have photos to share, please send them to Nancy and Lyn, and also to Carol and Amy for the newsletter.

Yearbook – Nina Saltus reminded the group of the July 1 deadline for all updated information for the yearbook, including for the committee chairs to provide their detailed programming information. Karen will drop off her Yearbook files to Cathy F. It was noted that the Yearbook says that the June meeting should be for new Board members and officers, and it was agreed that it needs to be stressed to the new Board members that they should attend the June meeting. A motion was made, seconded and passed that next year, the June Board meeting will include both outgoing and new Board members.

Old business – Per Nancy Agler, the recipient of the Garden Club's scholarship is Charlotte Terry, who will be attending The New School in New York City. According to her application, she is interested in studying design and environmental science. Charlotte has spent many hours of community service at the Needham Community Farm and also performing trail maintenance. Diana Conroy agreed to call to arrange for a photo for the scholarship presentation.

New business – Nancy Agler stated that she had attended the GCFM luncheon, and noted that this year local garden clubs are being asked to get involved with children's groups. It was noted that the addition at Needham High School may have raised beds, and this might be an opportunity to engage with youth around gardening. It was agreed that we would notify NHS about lectures we are having this coming year. Mary will follow up with the high school, which reportedly now has a garden club.

The meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Brand, Recording Secretary.

Present: Nancy Agler, Carol Alper, Jane Brand, Anne Carlson, Diana Conroy, Cathie Cummings, Lynne Jones, Jane Lischewski, Eileen Mecagni, Nina Saltus, Martha Schleck, Karen Taggart, Mary Toran, Bonnie Waters, and Vivian Weller.