

**NEEDHAM GARDEN CLUB
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 4, 2022
(20 members present)**

Tri-President Debbie Wentworth called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. The meeting took place via Zoom. Tri-President Martha Schleck welcomed the Board members and thanked Ways & Means Tri-Chairs Diana Conroy, Fabienne Madsen and Nancy Yablonski for their work on a successful Wreath & Arrangement Sale.

Recording Secretary:

A motion was made by Bonnie Waters and seconded by Terry Luskin to approve the minutes from the November 2021 Board meeting; said motion was approved.

Corresponding Secretary:

Bonnie Waters reported that notes have been sent to MJ Casey and to Rev. John Gage of the Congregational Church.

Treasurer/Finance Committee:

The Treasurer's Reports for November and December were circulated to the Board, together with a summary of Wreath & Arrangement Sale profits for 2021 (\$1685.74) and preceding years. The November 2021 Treasurer's Report reflected the following:

The month began with \$19,694.78 in the checking account and cash on hand of \$280, for a total of \$19,974.78. Income for the month was \$797.64; expenses were \$1,390.33. At the end of the month, the checking account balance was \$19,102.09 and cash on hand was \$280, for a total of \$19,382.09.

The December 2021 Treasurer's Report reflected the following:

The month began with \$19,102.09 in the checking account and cash on hand of \$280, for a total of \$19,382.09. Income for the month was \$4,507.14; expenses were \$1,154.51. At the end of the month, the checking account balance was \$22,454.72 and cash on hand was \$280, for a total of \$22,734.72.

Treasurer Nancy Agler noted that the Yearbook states the club is a member of the Charles River Watershed Association, but she does not have a record of recent payments to the organization. As no one present was able to shed light on the club's membership status, Nancy agreed to research the organization so the Board can decide whether the club should continue or revive its membership.

Nancy also described the benefits of the club being a member of the Native Plant Trust and Mass Hort. She will provide an email outlining the benefits to Board members, as well as prepare an article concerning same for the next newsletter. Nancy will also mention the Healey and Dennett scholarship funds.

Communications Committee:

Publicity — Gail Davis stated that Hometown Weekly and the Needham Times ran ads for the Wreath & Arrangement Sale. In addition, Gail arranged for use of the town's electronic sign to promote the sale. This publicity, along with the emailed 'postcards,' were felt to have contributed to a successful sale. Gail was thanked for her efforts.

Yearbook — Trish Cruickshank asked to be notified of updates concerning new members, meeting changes, etc. She will send an update similar to November's, which will be resent, as some Board members indicated they had not received it. Terry Luskin stated that the membership spreadsheet was last updated on 11/16/21. The Yearbook team will be in touch with the Membership Committee concerning additional new members.

Facebook — Lyn Jekowsky continues to post pictures and write-ups to Facebook, and asked that members keep the information coming.

Website — Nancy Agler reported that the website has been updated.

Community Outreach Committee:

Co-Chair Lynne Jones reported that the library urns had been seasonally updated, and that due to the ongoing pandemic, no Garden Therapy sessions have been scheduled.

Co-Chair Cathie Cummings will send out a request for members to provide arrangements for the library, mostly for after February. Following discussion, it was agreed that 'old' arrangements should be moved to the windowsill behind the copier when a new arrangement is dropped off.

Cathie will remind members about this in her email.

Cathie also plans to review and document Noyes Garden, with the goal of installing more native plants and eliminating the Japanese spirea. Cathie will prepare an email offering the entire club the opportunity to get involved with this project, including meeting to discuss new plantings as well as removal of old, and installation of new, plants.

Flower Arranging Committee:

No update.

Horticulture Committee:

Co-Chair Trish Cruickshank reported that the Committee will soon start organizing for the plant sale, to be held on May 21 at the Congregational Church. Plans will include a planting day and arranging for 'sitters' for the plants leading up to the sale. More details will be provided at the March Board meeting. Diana suggested using the new display rack Trish made, which was used at the Wreath & Arrangement Sale.

Hospitality Committee:

Co-Chair Anne Brain thanked Board members for providing goodies for the Wreath & Arrangement Workshop. In the absence of in-person meetings, the committee is not planning other events at present.

Membership Committee:

No update.

Newsletter Committee:

Co-Editor Carol Alper noted that the most recent issue of the newsletter had been circulated, and that the next newsletter deadline, for the March/April issue, will be February 10. That issue will

be prepared by Amy Cicala. Carol stated that pictures and other tidbits, like recipes, in addition to articles, are welcome.

Nominating Committee:

Co-Chair Nancy Agler thanked Board members who already returned their preference forms and asked that others please do so ASAP. She requested that committee chairs remind their members to return the preference sheets. She also requested that committee chairs give thought to whom might be good candidates to succeed them as chairs, and asked that this information be passed along to herself and to Anne Carlson.

Program Committee:

Co-Chair Pat Hession informed the Board that due to the most recent pandemic surge, the library will be closed for all meetings during January. Accordingly, the January general meeting will take place over Zoom. Pat will discuss with January's speaker if she would prefer to use her own Zoom account or the club's. Upcoming speakers Dan Jaffe and Chuck Doughty are prepared to present over Zoom, if necessary. Pat and Co-Chair Bonnie Waters will prepare a notice to be sent to club members about the January meeting being over Zoom rather than in person.

Pat also noted that complaints about being unable to hear the presenters had been received after recent in-person meetings. Bonnie has researched portable sound systems, and the committee proposes to purchase a Bose system consisting of a speaker, stand, and headphone style microphone. The anticipated cost is \$1300-1400, and is within the Program Committee's budget. Upon inquiry from Gail Davis, it was confirmed that the club will not advertise programs as being open to the public during the pandemic, but potential new members will be welcome, and Zoom links can be shared with them.

Ways and Means Committee:

Tri-Chair Diana Conroy thanked the Board for its support of the Wreath & Arrangement Sale. She noted that beyond the money raised, it provided club members with an opportunity for camaraderie and creativity. Diana stated that another tri-chair will be needed for next year, although she has agreed to remain on the committee. Diana has updated the committee's notebook with month-by-month tasks to be undertaken in preparation for the sale. The Tri-Chairs, including Fabienne Madsen and Nancy Yablonski, are planning to shop at Jacobson's for sale items for next year. Diana has created an inventory of what the club has and what it needs for next year. She also will prepare an email for club members concerning two missing bins (#s 3 and 8 – who has them? what's in them?) and what to do with yard signs. Fabienne expressed her hope that those who have participated in various sale preparation tasks, such as bow-making and the like, will agree to undertake those tasks again. She also would like to publicize to the club at large opportunities for involvement on a monthly basis. Nancy will dedicate her organizational and detail-oriented skills to the next Wreath & Arrangement Sale.

Old Business:

None.

New business:

None.

There being no further business, and *upon motion made by Bonnie Waters, seconded by Jane Lischewski and approved, the meeting adjourned at 10:31 am.*

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Brand, Recording Secretary

Present: Nancy Agler, Carol Alper, Anne Brain, Jane Brand, Diana Conroy, Trish Cruickshank, Cathie Cummings, Gail Davis, Cathy Flaherty, Carole Grosberg, Pat Hession, Lyn Jekowsky, Lynne Jones, Jane Lischewski, Terry Luskin, Fabienne Madsen, Martha Schleck, Bonnie Waters, Debbie Wentworth and Nancy Yablonski.