

Needham Garden Club Board Minutes
January 8, 2019
(19 Board members present)

President Nancy Agler called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. Cathy MacFarlane hosted the meeting, with Lyn Jekowsky.

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. Cathie Cummings volunteered to take the minutes at the brief business meeting which will precede the presentation by the guest speaker at the January 22 General Meeting, in the Recording Secretary's absence.

Corresponding Secretary – Corresponding Secretary Cathy MacFarlane shared that news of several deaths, including Ada Suydam, Alice Comiskey and Winnie West's husband. A card will be sent to Danielle at the Congregational Church, and a thank you card for library custodian Angel Lopez was circulated for all to sign; Diana also will purchase a \$25 gift certificate to accompany the card. There is no February Board meeting; the March 5 meeting will be held at Lynne Braley's home. A hostess willing to accommodate 18 people for the Board luncheon on May 7 is needed; Martha will ask Anne C if she would be willing to host. A Board member is needed to host the June meeting, which combines the outgoing and incoming boards.

Treasurer – Treasurer Martha Schleck reported that the club made more than \$2700 on the wreath sale, about \$1,000 of which was from the jewelry sale.

The November Treasurer's Report reflects that the beginning checking account balance was \$18,780.82 and cash on hand was \$280.00, for a total of \$19,060.82. Total income for this period was \$320.00 and total expenses were \$3,558.61. The ending checking account balance was \$15,542.21 and cash on hand was \$280.00, for a total of \$15,822.21.

According to the December Treasurer's Report, the beginning checking account balance was \$15,542.21 and cash on hand was \$280.00, for a total of \$15,822.21. Total income for this period was \$6,052.00 and total expenses were \$575.21. The ending checking account balance was \$21,019.00 and cash on hand was \$280.00, for a total of \$21,299.00.

Martha also stated that the club had received 3 checks, totaling \$40.00, from an organization called WAITT. It is unknown what this organization is and why the club received these checks. Martha will follow up with the organization to try to get answers to these questions.

Community Outreach – Debbie Wentworth circulated two sign-up sheets, one for garden therapy at Briarwood on March 21, and the other to fill the remaining open slots for arrangements for the library. Following discussion, Community Outreach was asked, when reminder emails are sent, to provide the names of library arrangement donors for the week or so before and after as well, so that if someone has a conflict they can more easily try to swap the date. It was suggested that members of the Community Outreach Committee could be tasked with sending the reminder emails, so as to lighten the burden on the co-chairs.

Flower Arranging – No update.

Horticulture – Karen Taggart reported that the committee is planning to have a flower show in May, and in advance of that to hold a workshop on March 19 to teach the requirements for exhibiting a horticulture entry in a standard flower show.

Hospitality – Mary Toran informed the Board that the Horticulture Committee is scheduled to host the general meeting on January 22, and Community Outreach is scheduled to host the general meeting on February 26. Mary reminded the Board that the end-of-year club luncheon will be held on May 16, and planning concerning same is underway.

Membership – Bonnie Waters reported that things have been quiet. Bonnie has followed up with a couple of emails to a prospective member from Newton, but has received no response. She still has the apron and yearbook to present to new member Nemet Eid. Nemet's mentor, Lyn J, will follow up with Nemet concerning same.

It was suggested that the club try to get information (perhaps the bookmarks) added to the Needham welcome packet made available to new residents. Bonnie will call Louise at the Town Manager's office to inquire.

Newsletter – Carol Alper was thanked for the most recent edition of the newsletter. Amy Cicala will be preparing the next issue, and information to be included should be sent to Amy by February 10th. Committee chairs were asked, at a minimum, to let Amy know by February 10th if they will be submitting information for the next newsletter, even if they need some additional time to finalize their submission.

Nominating – Lynne Braley said that the committee is gearing up and asked everyone to send in their preference sheets as soon as possible. The deadline for same is January 22. Current chairs are encouraged to suggest committee members for promotion to chair or co-chair. Debbie W asked that the preference sheet make specific reference to garden therapy as one of the tasks performed by Community Outreach.

Program – On behalf of Fawn H and Lori M, Nancy stated that the January 22 General Meeting will feature Beekeeper Sue Robinson. There has been much publicity concerning this presentation, and Nancy reported that she had notified other area garden clubs.

Publicity – Gail Davis stated that both the Needham Times and the Hometown Weekly provided great publicity concerning the wreath sale. Other suggested places to post about club events to increase visibility are the Needham FB, Needham perennial share and Wellesley sustainability pages. Because it was felt that the January beekeeper presentation, as well as February's program about environmental home gardening and sustainability, were likely to attract a larger crowd, extra hands to set up additional chairs before the meeting were encouraged.

Ways and Means – Jane Lischewski stated that she has booked the Congregational Church for December 5, 6 and 7, 2019 for the wreath sale. She asked that a potential alternative to the large electric pans for hot glue be explored; the location for using them was not convenient, and when all the pans were in use the power blew in the church kitchen. It also was noted that some of the glued items did not stay attached to the wreaths. It was felt that wiring items to the wreaths would be better, but would require pre-wiring in advance of the workshop.

Jane L asked that the yard signs be returned to her, and she will update them with the new date for next year. She also stated that the tent signs are rotting and will need to be replaced. The Board discussed getting a large vinyl banner-style sign, which can be outfitted with grommets and hung on the Claxton Field fence across from the RTS; it could be updated with the new sale date yearly, similar to what is done with the yard signs.

Discussion followed about whether to hold another jewelry sale at next year's wreath sale. It was decided that this possibility should be kept on the table. It was felt that it would not be possible to add this information to the existing yard signs, but it could be included in other publicity about the sale. The jewelry left over from this year's sale could be donated to Savers or perhaps to a place like a nursing home. The suggestion was made to have a jewelry sale sign-up sheet at the general meetings, so that more can sign up to help for this labor intensive project. Karen T said she would make a jewelry collection box to be put out at the general meetings.

The Board was informed that the Needham Parks & Rec Dept has asked the garden club if it would be interested in creating a butterfly garden at Mitchell School. Barring additional information indicating that others would be responsible for the garden's upkeep once created, the feeling was that this is not a project the club could take on.

The Board was informed that as an expression of gratitude for creating an Advent wreath of live greens for the Congregational Church, the church had made a \$75 donation to the club.

Vivian was selected as the next recipient of the garden club "award necklace."

Social Media – Nancy reported that the website has been updated. Lyn J asked for pictures that she can post on the club's FB page.

Yearbook – Cathie Cummings stated that she will stay on the Yearbook Committee to help teach the next person who joins the committee. She would like to see the Yearbook "cleaned up" to make it shorter and more readable. She had several suggestions, including: that the Yearbook contain a general statement that meetings are open to all, and specifically note only where member sign-up is required; that the "Unsung Hero" list include only the current holder of the title, and that prior recipients be listed on the website, as the list is getting quite long; that the Presidents' letter be shortened; that the bylaws be removed and posted on the website instead, with a physical copy to be available at meetings (there was discussion that the GCFM may require the bylaws to be printed in the Yearbook, but it was felt that was required only for those clubs seeking to receive an award for their Yearbooks.) Cathie and others were asked to write down their suggested changes so that they can be voted on at a later date.

Old Business — None.

New business –

- 1) Nancy mentioned that there had been a request that stipends be provided for preparing the tea table arrangements at the monthly meetings. A motion was made that the Needham Garden Club not provide stipends for the monthly flower arrangements at the general meetings. Said motion was passed unanimously.
- 2) Nancy informed the Board that the Newton-Needham Chamber of Commerce has increased its dues from \$100 to \$295. Following discussion with Chamber representatives, the club was informed that this price increase applies to nonprofits as well, and that no discount would be given to nonprofit organizations. Discussion ensued about the benefits the club gets from the Chamber, and they were found to be minimal; e.g., the publicity of being on the Chamber's website is limited as it is accessible to Chamber members only, not to the public; and although membership permits the club to get a spot at the street fair for the plant sale, the club pays a fee for that as well.

Discussion then ensued about alternative arrangements for the plant sale. Diana stated that she had obtained a verbal commitment from the Congregational Church to hold the plant

sale on the church's front lawn, on the same day as the street fair, for the cost of \$150 and free use of the parking lot and as many tables as the club might need.

Lyn J will check with the UU church about possibly using its lawn. Upside is it's closer to the street fair location; downside is the lawn is now more sloped due to a project at the church.

Cathy MacFarlane will look into whether, if her company does not use its table at the street fair, it can donate the spot to the garden club to use.

The possible use of the Needham History Museum site was also discussed, as was the possibility of holding the plant sale earlier (perhaps Mother's Day weekend) if the sale is no longer tied to the street fair.

It was agreed that this issue will be re-visited and voted on in the next month or so.

- 3) Boston Strong Marathon Daffodils, which is engaged in distributing daffodils and planting bulbs along the Boston Marathon route, asked if the club would like to donate time or money to this effort. A motion was made to decline the invitation; said motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Brand, Recording Secretary

Present: Nancy Agler, Carol Alper, Lynne Braley, Jane Brand, Diana Conroy, Cathie Cummings, Gail Davis, Lyn Jekowsky, Lynne Jones, Jane Lischewski, Cathy MacFarlane, Eileen Mecagni, Nina Saltus, Martha Schleck, Karen Taggart, Mary Toran, Bonnie Waters, Vivian Weller and Debbie Wentworth.