

Needham Garden Club Board Minutes

September 12, 2017

(22 Board members present)

President Diana Conroy called meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. She thanked Gail Davis and Char Sidell for hosting.

Recording Secretary – Motion made to accept June Board Meeting minutes; motion passed.

Corresponding Secretary Cathy MacFarlane provided her cell no. as alternative way to transmit new information to her. It will be added to website. Debbie Wentworth needs letter-sized paper for Outreach; Cathy will make copies for her. Hostesses needed for October, January and May (co-hostess only) Board Meetings. Personal matters (deaths, illnesses) noted. Motion made to donate book to Needham Public Library in memory of Peggy Hagerott; motion passed. Discussion followed about placing donated books by flower arrangement in library, with accompanying notice, in future. Motion made to have an individual dedicated to follow-up regarding book donations and tree plantings; motion was tabled until next meeting.

Treasurer Martha Schleck provided Treasurer's Report for June, July and August. Beginning checking account balance in June was \$23,034.11 and cash on hand was \$280.00, for total of \$21,314.11. Total income for May was \$1389.00, and total expenses for May were \$1286.45. Ending checking account balance was \$23,136.66 and cash on hand was \$280.00, for total of \$23,416.66. June plant sale at NBA Fair earned \$559.00. Balances for July and August same as for June.

Community Outreach Co-chair Debbie Wentworth thanked summer watering volunteers. Imie Kilburn will be in charge of library reception arrangement; schedule for library arrangements will be set up in 2-week intervals. Next Garden Therapy will be October 26 at Briarwood; set-up at 9:30, program at 10:00. Sign-up for same at September 19 general meeting. Planting of bulbs in Noyes Garden being planned for October, with more information to be provided at next meeting. Martha will provide budget for Outreach.

Flower Arranging Co-chair Anne Carlson is coordinating sign-ups for tea table arrangements at general meetings. Sign-ups today and at September 19 general meeting for October table design groups. After discussion, it was agreed that club will continue its practice of mixing the groups to combine new members with existing members. Theme for October table design will be gourds.

Horticulture Co-chair Cathie Cummings initiated discussion about the Garden Stroll. Suggestions included changing date to August or September, or holding it every other year. For September meeting, members are asked to bring flowers from their garden for Horticulture Table, which will fit with speakers' theme of "Flowers for Everyday." Participants in begonia challenge are asked to bring their begonias, or pictures of them. Cathie described trip to Rose Kennedy Greenway scheduled for September 26 (rain date September 27).

Hospitality Co-chair Mary Toran circulated sign-up sheet for members-only luncheon following October general meeting. Nancy will circulate an email to members concerning same. There also will be sign-up for the luncheon at September 19 general meeting.

Membership Co-chair Bonnie Waters stated she has new member packets to share with prospective members. LWV program on environmentally-friendly lawn alternatives to be held September 15 at 9:30 at the library. After discussion, importance of having hosting committee provide greeters to welcome and encourage donations by guests was emphasized. All donations must be "suggested" only, due to library policy.

Newsletter Co-chair Carol Alper stated that next deadline for newsletter submissions is October 10. Following discussion, it was agreed that copies of newsletter would be made available at general meetings, including September 19 meeting. Mary Toran will bring notebook with past copies to September meeting; copy of Sept/Oct newsletter will be added to it.

Nominating – No update.

Program Co-chair Fawn Hurwitz described September meeting's topic. Carolyn Ellis and Beth Paisner will discuss "Flowers for Everyday" and share their floral design techniques. There will be opportunity drawings. Supply of tickets for same to be confirmed.

Publicity Co-chair Gail Davis stated that photos of new Board and of Garden Club's scholarship recipient appeared in newspaper. Announcement for September meeting will appear in Thursday's paper. After discussion, it was noted that opportunity drawings can be referenced in GCFM notices.

Ways and Means – An email from Janice Berns providing an update was read. To secure space at Congregational Church for wreath workshop and sale, \$700 check must be provided to the church by November 30. Janice's email noted difficulties in finding vendors for wreaths. Best option at present is Fran's Flowers, but those wreaths will be naked, resulting in more work and higher costs to prepare the wreaths. Discussion followed that this would merely mean return to past practice. Martha and Mary will email to Ways and Means Committee suggestions for other sites to obtain wreaths. Janice's email also noted that due to number of changes needed for small signs, and cost of new stickers for the changes, purchase of new signs should be considered. Discussion also followed concerning the tent sign. This would be very expensive to replace, so ideas for updating existing sign will be explored.

Website Chair Nancy Agler stated that homepage has been updated with Horticulture Hints and September's upcoming events. Nancy asked to be notified of local garden-related events. Pictures always welcome. She will circulate a reminder of website's password for members.

Yearbook Co-chair Karen Taggart provided errata sheet for new yearbook, and will also email a copy to club's members. Future changes will include adding "Website" as a committee with a description, and adding club's web address to the front cover. Following discussion, it was agreed that in future, deceased past presidents would be eliminated from the "Past Presidents" list.

Old business –Diana Conroy stated that group working on Festival of Trees has wrapped up its meetings. The tree's theme this year is "Pinecone Sonata," which is described as "modern Victorian." Festival runs from November 24 to December 10. Included with our tree donation are gift certificates to Sweet Basil (\$75) and Needham Center Fine Wines (\$25). Char Sidell offered to donate two tickets to the BSO for a February concert; her offer was gratefully accepted. Diana will notify Mass Hort concerning the additional gift.

New business – NGC was approached by Needham High School to partner with the Greater Boston Project, an interdisciplinary program for high school seniors. To learn more about organizations in the local community, project participants have asked to conduct videotaped interviews of club leaders. Co-presidents Diana Conroy and Nancy Agler expressed interest in participating, subject to obtaining approval from Board. Motion made to endorse participation in project; motion passed.

Mary Toran stated that Joan Oakes requested all minutes from 2010-2015 be provided to her in 1-page format. Mary did this work over summer, resulting in 54 pages of minutes. After discussion, it was agreed that Mary can provide minutes on flash drive rather than on paper.

Meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Brand, Recording Secretary.

Present: Carol Alper, Nancy Agler, Lynne Braley, Jane Brand, Anne Carlson, Diana Conroy, Cathie Cummings, Gail Davis, Cathy Flaherty, Fawn Hurwitz, Lynne Jones, Cathy MacFarlane, Lori Markell, Eileen Mecagni, Nina Saltus, Martha Schleck, Char Sidell, Karen Taggart, Mary Toran, Sally Toran, Bonnie Waters, and Debbie Wentworth.