

# TOPSHAM GARDEN CLUB MINUTES

Date: September 14, 2016

President Vicky Marr called the meeting to order at 12:40 with the various pledges recited.

In attendance were 19 members and 11 guests.

Nancy Simboli, Welcome Committee Chair, introduced recent new members: Pixie Williams, Rosalind Harris, Allyson Breen, and Clara Ross.

## **Hostesses:**

For this meeting: Marie Neale (lead), Nancy Simboli, Barbara McHarg, and Clara Ross  
For October 12: Carole Flaherty (lead), Vicky Marr and Betsy Marr

## **Library flowers:**

This month: Kim Mondonedo  
For October: Carole Flaherty

## **Secretary's Report:**

There are no minutes for July and August as we did not have meetings but instead enjoyed two field trips.

In July there was a garden tour of members' gardens that included Jane Donelon, Alison Harris, and Claudia Knox. In addition Henry and Marty's garden on Cumberland Street was toured.

In August there was a field trip to Barred Owl Daylilies in Otisfield hosted by Rex Beisel and Craig Cote.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

- Checking account: \$3409.06
- Savings account: \$2509.13
- Membership: 45 members which includes one honorary member
- The following payments have been made: Garden Club Federation of Maine (GCFM) dues \$180, Medomak District dues \$20, website fee to GCFM \$25.
- Complete report is on file.

## **Executive Committee:**

President Vicky Marr reviewed ideas that the Executive Board discussed at their July 30, 2016 meeting. A general theme is to encourage growth of the club and to evolve as necessary to meet the needs of current members. Suggestions for the club's consideration include:

- Expanding the Welcome Committee to involve all members as greeters, to mentor a new member, to have guests sign in with contact information.
- Changing the name of the club to something more inclusive of all members such as Topsham Region Garden Club. (current membership is Topsham 24, Brunswick 11 and other towns 10)

- Reworking the meeting format giving thought to time of day, length, order of events, programming, promptness, refreshments, projects and activities
- Keeping lapsed members connected through club information
- Encouraging members to invite contacts with similar interests, with and/or lack of gardening knowledge
- Filling the position of Publicity chair to undertake such projects as creating a club logo, more newspaper articles/pictures, printed bookmarks with list of programs, Facebook page
- Posting Garden Club information at Topsham Public Library, Curtis Memorial Library, Thornton Oaks, the Highlands, Garden centers, tennis clubs, fitness centers

Topsham Garden Club will be hosting the Medomak District meeting on Monday, May 1, 2017. Several venues are being considered. A possible speaker has been contacted.

### **Committee Reports:**

Horticulture: Chair Jean Herlihy thanked those who have helped to maintain the gardens. She will announce a future date for fall clean up. The hex key for water at the Town Building should be left inside the box at the Town Building.

Ways and Means: Co-Chair Lucette Musica brought a hibiscus plant to raffle. This plant was later won by Kim Mondonedo.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Several open positions exist: Vice President, Publicity

### **New Business:**

Garden Club Federation of Maine Fall Conference is October 31, 2016 at the Augusta Civic Center. Don Cameron, Maine Natural Areas Program, is the featured speaker for two programs, Maine's Rare and Endangered Plants and Importance of the St. John River to Rare Plants in Maine. Registration forms are available at [www.maineclub.org](http://www.maineclub.org).

Allyson Breen has created a Facebook page for the Garden Club.

Clara Ross has vinca available for anyone to dig from her garden. Contact information: 442-7502 or clara.ross@yahoo.com

Marie Neale asked about the \$1000 that is in reserve for a capital gift for the Androscoggin Brunswick-Topsham Riverwalk. The project is not yet completed and therefore an appropriate location for a bench/sculpture/etc. is not yet known.

Pixie Williams presented an article regarding all butterflies, not just the monarch butterfly, are in danger. Much information is available, including on the National Garden Club website, on how to garden for butterflies.

Marge Whipple shared that Peggy Lord's husband has passed unexpectedly.

Marge Whipple reported on progress with the Topsham Public Library Board regarding the purchase of an American flag for our use. We are allowed to have a small one that will be stored when not in use. Marge will work with the Library to determine costs. Dorothy Gardner will donate a 3x5 flag.

### **Open Forum:**

Topic, "Why did you join the Garden Club and your Elevator Speech?"

Various thoughts included:

- Opportunities for volunteering
- To meet people
- Comradery
- Fun
- Interesting trips
- Flower shows
- On-going education through National Garden Club (NGC)
- To share a new garden
- To share plants
- Civic opportunities
- Should do a needs assessment of all members
- With more demands on time and the aging of our members, growing our Garden Club makes sense as it may take more members to complete projects through job sharing

### **Show and Tell: Favorite Gardening Books:**

Some members brought their favorite gardening books to share.

### **Announcements and important dates:**

October 12, 2016	Topsham Garden Club meeting, "Vermiculture: What, Where, When and Why"
October 31, 2016	GCFM Fall Conference, Augusta Civic Center
November 9, 2016	Topsham Garden Club meeting, two speakers from the Maine State Museum

### **Meeting adjourned at 1:25.**

### **The Program**

Today's program was "Heirloom Apples" with John Bunker of Fedco Seeds whose theme was to review world and then American history in the context of the history of apples. He informed us of how apples were spread worldwide by seed resulting in thousands of different varieties of

apples which anyone could name. Once the technique of grafting was developed then one could replicate an apple tree determined to be of good quality.

John's t-shirt displayed sixteen different apples representing apples that originated in each of Maine's sixteen counties.

For Sagadahoc County the t-shirt apple should be the Givens which is known to have been exhibited in 1849 as a new seedling from S. Given orchard and is said to have resembled the Williams Favorite. Because there is no further information on the Givens apple, the t-shirt apple is the Williams Favorite.

One of John's goals is to locate the Givens apple tree which should be in Topsham in the area of Cathance Road, should be 95% dead, should be hollow, and should be of large diameter.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Neale  
Secretary