

# TOPSHAM GARDEN CLUB MINUTES

Date: March 9, 2016

President Vicky Marr called the meeting to order at 12:45 with the various pledges recited.

In attendance were 22 members and 9 guests: Roz Harris, Tom Hayward, Susan Hayward, Ruth Horwitch, Libby Hyatt, Patsy Lambert, Pat Spock, Sandra Johnson, and Pam LaJeunesse.

Hostesses were thanked.

For this meeting: Mary Ann Douglas, Sue Poliquin, Izza Johnson, Patsy St. Pierre  
For April 13 Annual Meeting: Betsy Marr, Patsy St. Pierre, Lucette Musica, Carole Flaherty. This meeting is potluck with main dishes contributed by everyone.

## Library flowers

This month: Fay Eldred

April: Mary Ann Douglas

## Secretary's Report:

Corrections: Marie Neale noted the correct spelling of Kim Mondonedo.  
The minutes were then approved after being moved by Liz Volckening and seconded by Marge Whipple.

## Treasurer's Report:

- Checking account \$2028.26
- Savings account \$2507.86
- Membership numbers are 47 members which includes one honorary member.
- Contributions were made as follows per our previously approved 2015-2016 budget:
  - \$225 – Bryant Pond 4-H Conservation Camp for a camp scholarship
  - \$200 – Cathance River Environmental Alliance (CREA) – for the camp scholarship fund (*fees vary depending on type of camp and whether a member of CREA*)
  - \$100 – Friends of Merrymeeting Bay - annual fund
- As part of the application process to obtain non-profit 501(c) (3) status under the umbrella of the Garden Club Federation of Maine, two actions were considered.
  - Adoption of "Articles of Association" provided by GCFM that limits our activities and our distribution of earnings to those permissible under section 501(c) (3) of the IRS code. It also stipulates that, if we dissolve, our assets must go to another non-profit or to the federal, state or local

government for a public purpose. *Our Bylaws state that upon dissolution, our assets go to the GCFM Scholarship Fund.*

Motion moved by Betsy Marr, seconded by Claudia Knox. Passed.

- Adoption of an “Activity Resolution” that specifies things we will not do: charitable gaming, issuance of bonds, low-income housing, schools and charter schools.

Motion moved by Marge Whipple, seconded by Doreen Wakely.

Passed.

- Alison Harris reviewed the draft budget which will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in April.

### **Executive Committee:**

The Executive committee met February 27. Topics discussed were budget review, current open positions, making changes to committee names and descriptions, making additions to Executive Committee, changing library flowers schedule, and making monies available for hostess expenses.

### **Committee Reports:**

- Horticulture committee presentation by Jean Herlihy:
  - Information regarding the rebound of monarch butterflies. There are four native milkweeds one can plant for habitat and food, as well as native perennials that will extend the season and also provide diversity. More information is available at [www.wildseedproject.net](http://www.wildseedproject.net).
  - Pruning of clematis—if early, let it be  
If later, cut to ground or 2-3 feet where there are swollen buds  
(Roots will continue to grow regardless.)
- Plant sale information by Kim Mondonedo:
  - Date of plant sale is June 4, 2016.
  - Posters are ready.
  - Plants are to be labeled with name, sun/shade requirements, color.
  - All plants must be in pots with soil.
  - Bring to the April Annual Meeting, extra pots, plant markers (popsicle sticks, venetian blind slats), potting soil.
  - Plant drop off is June 3 after 3:00. See Pam LeDuc at Town Building if you must drop off earlier in the day.

### **Unfinished Business:**

- Sign-up sheets were circulated again for library flowers and hostessing. Please contact Vicky to sign-up by e-mail for these. Contact Barbara McHarg for the garden tending openings. Guidelines for each of these are on the website. The sign up sheets will continue to be available until filled.

### **New Business:**

- Some current committees will be renamed and/or restructured as follows:
  - Corresponding Secretary (new)
  - Civic Beautification (replaces town gardens and adds interior library flowers)
  - Environment/Conservation (combines environmental awareness and birds)
  - Membership (combines welcome/membership and telephone)
  - Program (will include environment/conservation chair and horticultural chair)
  - Publicity (combines publicity, yearbook and website)
- Current open positions are:
  - Vice-president
  - Corresponding Secretary
  - Civic Beautification Chair
  - Membership co-chair
  - Program Chair (should be the vice president)
  - Publicity Chair
- Vicky will create a summary of the responsibilities of each committee and the chair of the committee.
- For the Annual meeting on April 13, 2016, each current committee will present an annual report reflecting on the past year and to include possible thoughts looking forward. Please e-mail a written report to Vicky by April 4, 2016.
- Discussion about library floral displays concerned changing from the current monthly time frame to a two week time frame. It was decided not to change. Also recommendations were made that the display be labeled with plant name, care, etc. The display must have been live at some point; therefore fall gourds are acceptable. To prolong the life of cut flowers, add a little bleach, ginger ale or 7-up to the water.
- Water Street Family Focus has contacted us requesting assistance to help the youth there to plant seeds and to teach them about gardening. This is a one day event which Jane Scease will follow up on.
- Kim Mondonedo has set up a Twitter account for the Garden Club.

**Announcements and important dates:**

- April 13 TGC Annual Meeting. Pot Luck Lunch/committee reports
- May 2 Medomak District Meeting, hosted by the Camden Garden Club, to be held at Point Lookout. Topic is “Farm to Table”, incorporating edible plants with perennials and keeping them attractive.
- June 4 Topsham Garden Club plant sale, chaired by Kim Mondonedo
- June 15 and 16 GCFM Annual Meeting, Bar Harbor, “Gardens of Eden”

Meeting adjourned at 1:40.

The Program was “Art in the Garden” by Stephen Mohr, a Maine Licensed Landscape Architect practicing in Portland, Maine. His presentation asked us to consider what a garden is and then what is art in that garden.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Neale  
Acting Secretary