

TOPSHAM GARDEN CLUB MINUTES

Date: April 5, 2017

President Vicky Marr called the meeting to order at 1:35, opening with recitation of the Gardeners Collect, the Conservation Pledge and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: 21 members
3 guests

Marie Neale introduced Minka Wallis who joined the Club in March.

Hostesses

For this meeting: Sue Poliquin, Izza Johnson
For May: no meeting/ none needed

Topsham Public Library Display

This month: Liz Volckening
Next month: Carole Flaherty

Secretary's Report:

Corrections: March minutes are corrected to read, "Two of today's guests, Minka Wallis and Maryanne Lamont, joined the club today." (Wallis was misspelled.)

Moved to accept by: Betsy Marr
Seconded by: Liz Volckening

Treasurer's Report

- Checking account: \$3486.91
Savings account: \$2510.37
- Executive board voted to increase 2016-2017 contributions to CREA from \$200 to \$250 and to Bryant Pond from \$225 to \$230 to coincide with increased costs of camperships. Those contributions and an annual fund gift to Friends of Merrymeeting Bay will be made this month.
- Executive board has approved a budget for 2017-2018. This budget was presented and passed after a motion by Vicky Marr and second by Marge Whipple.
- Dues will remain \$20 for an individual and \$30 for two members of the same household. Dues are due by June 15.
- Membership: 46

President's Report

- New meeting format was implemented today with the program from 12:00 to 1:00 followed by refreshments and business meeting.
- Plans for the Medomak District Annual meeting on May 1 are in place. The meeting is at Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Middle Street, Brunswick beginning with registration at 9:30. Our members are asked to arrive at 8:00 for set up.
- Registration/payment is extended to April 17.
- \$30 for members--\$35 for guests and late registration.
- Make check payable to Topsham Garden Club and mail to Liz Volckening, 10 Muskie Place, Topsham, Maine 04086.
- Vicky announced the programs for the next few months as follows:
 - May no meeting
 - June 14 18th Century Gardening at "Montpelier" and Landscaping Plans for the Knox Museum Gardens in Thomaston
 - July 12 Field trip to Knox Museum in Thomaston
 - August 9 Field trip/picnic to home of Vicky and Betsy Marr, Bristol
- Current Executive Board/Committee chairperson openings are Vice President and Environmental/Conservation.
- Due to time constraints at this meeting the installation of officers and the annual meeting committee reports were postponed to June.

Discussions

- Annual plant sale
 - June 3, chaired by Fay Eldred.
 - Fay will arrange a meeting with those helping with the plant sale.
 - Plants are to be potted up by 5/15.
 - Jean Herlihy has plant pots available.
 - Bookmark will be at the Medomak District meeting.
 - Solicit leftover plants from plant sales prior to ours.
- Town Garden chair, Jean Herlihy, announced date for clean-up of town gardens.
 - Sunday, May 21, 12:00
 - Begin at Town Hall with mulching and Memorial Day plantings
- Hospitality chair, Liz Volckening, requested hostesses for the June meeting.
 - Patsy St. Pierre, Pat Hix and Liz Volckening volunteered.
- Yearbook chair, Alison Harris, stated that June 15 is the deadline for inclusion in the yearbook of membership names, garden tenders, hostesses, and library flowers. Therefore dues and sign-up sheets are due by that date.
- Garden Club Federation of Maine (GCFM) Annual Convention is June 19 to June 21, 2017 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Freeport, Maine.

- Registration form is available at www.maineclub.org or at www.topshamgardenclub.com under "For members only".
- Early registration deadline is May 30, 2017.
- For our members without e-mail, contact Marie Neale for a registration form.

Important dates

- May 1 Medomak District Annual Meeting
- June 14 Topsham Garden Club meeting
 - Program: 18th Century Gardening/Knox Museum
 - Installation of Officers
 - Committee annual reports
- June 19-21 GCFM Annual Convention
- July 12 Topsham Garden Club meeting
 - Field trip to Knox Museum
- August 9 Topsham Garden Club meeting
 - Marr home in Bristol
- November 14 GCFM Fall Conference
- June 18-20, 2018 GCFM Annual Convention
 - Sebasco Harbor Resort, Sebasco Estates, Maine

Meeting adjourned at 2:05.

The program was by Jean Potuchek (<https://jeansgarden.wordpress.com>) on "Multiple Strategies for Organizing Gardening Information." Jean offered ideas to use (from photos to notebooks to calendars to spreadsheets to computer graphics) to record information about one's garden (from bloom times to "to do" lists to maps to watering schedules to planting dates to sun/shade areas.)

The thought is that any type of organization (based on one's skills, personality, and life style) will enhance the gardening experience by making it easier, lovelier and more productive. One should start with just one project from these ideas and let the process evolve and change.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Neale
Secretary

**TOPSHAM GARDEN CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
April 5, 2017**

Checking Account Balance (as of April 4, 2017)	\$3,486.91
Savings Account Balance (as of February 28, 2017*)	\$2,510.37**

** March 31, 2017 bank statement not received before meeting*

*** The Savings Account balance includes \$1,500 for a "Rainy Day Fund," \$1,000 reserved for a capital gift for the Androscoggin Brunswick-Topsham Riverwalk, and interest earned.*

Membership: As of April 4, we have 46 members, including two new members who joined at our March meeting: Maryanne Lamont and Minka Wallis.

Dues (new or renewing members) for 2016-2017 were unchanged, as are dues for 2017-2018 as proposed in the budget: \$20 for an individual or \$30 for two members of the same household. Members joining December 1 or later pay half price until the April Annual Meeting when all dues collected will be applied to the following year. According to our By-Laws, dues are due by June 15.

Activity: I really will be making the remaining contributions approved in our annual budget later this month, following discussion today. That would be camperships for CREA and Bryant Pond 4-H Camp and an annual fund gift to Friends of Merrymeeting Bay. Our Friends of the Topsham Public Library renewal was paid last summer in time to sponsor the garden books table at the annual book sale.

Non-Profit Status: In mid-January 2017, the GCFM Assistant Treasurer added us to the list of clubs under the GCFM non-profit 501(c)(3) umbrella when she made her annual filing with the Internal Revenue Service. Having non-profit status means that donors can deduct their contributions to Topsham Garden Garden. It does not mean that we are tax-exempt. That requires a separate filing with the State of Maine, and we might need to be a 501(c)(3) organization in our name, not just under the GCFM umbrella.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Harris, Treasurer