

TOPSHAM GARDEN CLUB MINUTES

Date: September 12, 2018

President Vicky Marr called the meeting to order at 2:00, opening with the recitation of the Conservation Pledge and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance 19 members and 16 guests
Welcome chair, Nancy Simboli, said she spoke with all the guests and gave each a membership folder.
Three guests stayed for at least part of the business meeting.

Hostesses were acknowledged and thanked.

For this meeting: Marie Neale, Nancy Simboli, and Carol Williams
For next meeting on October 10: Carole Flaherty and Lucette Musica

Library flowers

This month: Dorothy Gardner
Next month: Nancy Simboli

Secretary's Report

There are no minutes for July and August as we did not have a business meeting.
Correction to June 13, 2018 minutes: Izza Johnson's address is 34 Elm Street,
Topsham

Treasurer's Report

- Checking account: \$5231.51
- Savings account : \$2514.13
- Membership: 41 members
- Full report is attached

Proposal for Fiscal Year change and the required By-Laws change

Copies of the proposed changes were previously emailed to the membership and copies were available at the meeting.

Treasurer Alison Harris explained the suggestion that the Club change its fiscal year to January 1 to December 31. This change will allow income and expenses to occur in one fiscal year rather than being split between two fiscal years.

The Annual meeting would continue to be in April, the yearbook would continue to be produced in July, and the membership year would continue to be June 1 to May 31.

This change would require a change to the By-Laws.

Alison Harris proposed that the Topsham Garden Club By-Laws be changed to having the Fiscal Year be from January 1 to December 31.

Nancy Simboli seconded.

The vote to approve was unanimous.

Proposal for a 6 month budget

Treasurer Alison Harris explained the necessary “stub year” budget from June 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. A full budget for 2019 will be presented in October and voted upon in November.

Nancy Simboli proposed the “stub year” budget for June 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018 be approved.

Fay Eldred seconded.

The vote to approve was unanimous.

President’s Report

President Vicky Marr recapped the Club’s activities since May.

- May 7 Medomak District meeting at the 1812 Farm in Bristol hosted by the Wiscasset Garden club
- May 9 Spring Bulb flower walk
- June 2 Plant sale
- June 13 Speaker Tom Seymour—“Foraging for Wild Edible and Medicinal Plants”
- June 18-20 GCFM 87th Annual Convention at Sebasco Harbor Resort, Phippsburg. Theme was “Celebrating the Summer Garden”
- June 23 Dedication of Gold Star Memorial Marker at Brunswick Landing by the Harpswell Garden club
- July 11 Tour of Bob Metivier’s gardens
- August 8 Board meeting with discussion of By-Laws, Fiscal Year, leadership, and Programming

Vicky thanked those who worked on the Topsham Fair exhibit for which the Club earned \$150 for First Place: Marie Neale, Alison Harris, Nancy Simboli, Patsy St. Pierre, Carole Flaherty, Jane Scease, Vicky Marr, Carol Williams, Liz Volckening, Jane Herlihy, Jean Haycock, Izza Johnson, Jane Donelon

Vicky informed the membership that Paul Parent had passed. He was a well-known Maine gardener with a radio show and blog. He was guest speaker at the GCFM Convention in June. Vicky has sent a card on behalf of the Club.

There will be a workshop on September 20 on “Building with Stone” led by Bob Metivier. Contact Heather Osterfeld if you are interested.

GCFM Fall Conference will be October 29 at the Augusta Civic Center. Speakers will be Lisa Coburn, “A Garden for all Seasons in Maine” and a presentation by Lisa LaGrange on “Topiary and Kokedama for Fall and Christmas.” Registration form is available at www.maine-garden-clubs.org. with login, Member, and password, pinecone.

The Judge’s Council Floral Design workshops for which there is a fee are:

- 10/3 Parallel Design
- 11/7 Grouped Mass Design
- 12/5 Creative Mass Holiday Design

Registration form is online at www.maine-garden-clubs.org. with login, Member, and password, pinecone.

There is a Wildlife Photo Contest with more information available at the National Wildlife Federation web site.

Committee Reports

Environmental/Conservation – Carol Williams showed a cage with Monarch caterpillars and chrysalis’ and discussed this metamorphosis and the number she has observed.

Horticulture – Vicky Marr asked if anyone could identify a vine-like weed with pods that she brought in. It appears to be similar to Black Swallow Wart. She will send a sample to the Cooperative Extension Service for identification. Jean Herlihy offered that if one decides to use an herbicide on a weed, do not do so while the plant is in flower as it would be detrimental to pollinators.

A recommendation was offered by Nancy Simboli regarding the treatment for brown tail moth—use scotch tape to pat the area to remove the hairs from one’s skin.

New Business:

An auction of pots of Pink Lily of the Valley and Sweet Woodruff donated by Claudia Knox resulted in \$45.

An invitation was extended from Alison Harris and Peter Harris to the celebration of their mother, Rosalind Harris’, 95th birthday on October 11 from 4:00 to 6:00 at Thornton Oaks, Brunswick. RSVP to Alison Harris at alison@harbart.net or 729-0787.

Nancy Simboli thanked Alison Harris for producing and mailing the 2018-2019 yearbook inserts.

Vicky Marr thanked Alison Harris for the work she does for the Club.

Announcements and important dates:

The next Garden club meeting is October 10 with speakers Reeser Manley and Marjorie Peronto discussing the book, "The Life of Your Garden."

Meeting was adjourned at 2:35.

The Program which was presented at 12:00 prior to a social time and the business meeting was "Bring Nature Home to Maine" by Eric Topper, Maine Audubon's Director of Education.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Neale
Secretary

**TOPSHAM GARDEN CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
September 11, 2018**

Checking Account Balance (as of September 11, 2018)	\$5,231.51
Savings Account Balance (as of August 31, 2018)	\$2,514.13**

*** 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:

We currently have 41 members for 2018-2019. According to our By-laws, dues were payable in full by June 15, 2018.

Dues (new or renewing members) are \$20 for an individual or \$30 for two members of the same household. Members joining December 1 or later paid half price until the April Annual Meeting when all dues collected are applied to the following year.

Fiscal Activity Since August 8, 2018 Treasurer's Report

- Income was \$162:
 - \$150 Topsham Fair – first prize blue ribbon
 - \$12 Plant Sale IOU payment
- Expenses were \$77.57
 - \$54.39 Yearbook insert printing, mailing envelopes, stamps
 - \$8.41 hose reel leader for Topsham Library
 - \$3 for miscellaneous postage
- Jean is owed for plants in the town and library gardens; invoice to be submitted

Recommended Change in Fiscal Year:

I am recommending that we change our Fiscal Year from June 1-May 31 to the calendar year, January 1-December 31. We have been tied to the GCFM Fiscal Year with the hope that we could take use their non-profit status so that donations could be tax-deductible. (We still would have to pay sales tax.) However, we learned this year that the IRS will not allow us to be under the GCFM non-profit umbrella. It is extremely inconvenient to close the Fiscal Year in the middle of our busiest season and it makes budgeting insane with a single gardening season's expenses split between two Fiscal Years, as well as membership dues, and Plant Sale expenses in one Fiscal Year and income in the next.

I suggest that we keep our Annual Meeting with the election of officers and appointment of committees in April to align with our affiliates who also have Annual Meetings in the spring – Medomak's Annual Meeting is in May and GCFM's is in June. This will give the incoming leadership time to confirm programs and recruit volunteers in time to produce a Yearbook in July along with our GCFM colleagues.

Also, I recommend that we keep our membership year of June 1-May 31. This also will keep us in alignment with GCFM, which collects dues from us in July, based on our current membership.

Changing the Fiscal Year would require a ByLaws change.

We would need a “stub year” budget from June 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. Since we have not yet adopted a 2018-2019 budget, that should not be a problem. Our next full-year budget for calendar year 2019 would be presented in October and adopted in November since we don’t have a business meeting in December.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Harris, Treasurer