

TOPSHAM GARDEN CLUB MINUTES

Date: March 8, 2017

President Vicky Marr called the meeting to order at 12:55, opening with recitation of the Gardeners Collect, the Conservation Pledge and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: for the business meeting --16 members
for the program -- 16 members
3 guests

Two of today's guests, Minka Wallace and Maryanne Lamont, joined the club today.

Hostesses

For this meeting: Marge Whipple, Dorothy Gardner and Patsy St. Pierre
For April meeting: Sue Poliquin, Kathleen Greer-Burns, and Izza Johnson

Topsham Public Library Display

This month: Fay Eldred
Next month: Liz Volckening

Secretary's Report:

Moved to accept by: Patsy St. Pierre
Seconded by: Lucette Musica

Treasurer's Report

- Checking account: \$3426.16
- Savings account: \$2510.18 (as of January 31, 2017)
 - Full report attached
- The fee for a campership at Bryant Pond 4-H Camp has increased from \$250 to \$300.
 - Motion by Alison Harris and second by Dorothy Gardner was approved to support this increase to \$300.
- The Club is in the final stage of becoming a 501(c) (3) under the umbrella of the Garden Club Federation of Maine.
- The annual budget for the Club will be presented at the April 5 meeting at which time it will be voted upon. Dues will be payable at that date. The cut-off date for inclusion in the Yearbook is June 15.
- Membership: 44 members

President's Report

- Sign-up sheets were circulated for garden tending, for hostessing a meeting, and for providing the Library flowers.
- Current officers will remain in their positions for another year.
- Most committee chairpersons will remain in their positions, although at least one committee chairperson would be willing to step down if another member is interested in the position. Speak with Vicky for details.

- It is important for all members to help increase our membership.
- A change to the format of our regular meetings is being considered and if possible will be implemented for the April 5 meeting. Vicky will coordinate this change with the speaker and will communicate the details to us.
- Registration fee for the Medomak District Annual Meeting on May 1 is \$30. More information will follow in the formal Call to Order. We would like as many members as possible to assist with this event.

Announcements

- Fay Eldred, chairperson for the 2017 Plant Sale, will arrange a planning meeting for those interested in helping with the sale.
- Jean Herlihy has confirmed with the Town of Topsham that June 3 is approved for the Plant Sale.

Important dates

March 29-April 2	Maine Flower Show, Thompsons Point, Portland, Maine
March 30	Maine Flower Show: 12:30 GCFM Exhibit and President Suzanne Bushnell's Talk
April 1	GCFM Awards deadline
April 5	Topsham Garden Club Annual meeting and installation of officers Program: Garden Records
May 1	Medomak District Annual Meeting
May	no regular Topsham Garden Club meeting
June 3	Plant Sale
June 19-21	GCFM 86 th Annual Convention Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport, Maine

Meeting was adjourned at 1:15.

The Program was presented by Mark Brandhorst, owner of Halls Pond Gardens in South Paris, Maine. His topic/power point was "Hardy Succulents and Rock Garden Plants", focusing on Sedums and Sempervivums from his property and their growing requirements.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Neale
Secretary

**TOPSHAM GARDEN CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
March 8, 2017**

Checking Account Balance (as of March 8, 2017)	\$3,426.16
Savings Account Balance (as of January 31, 2017*)	\$2,510.18**

** February 28, 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 March 8, we have 44 members.

Dues (new or renewing members) for 2016-2017 are unchanged: \$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 will be making the remaining contributions approved in our annual budget later this month. 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. As of February 27, she hadn't received a letter of confirmation, but she doesn't expect one until mid-March. She confirmed that we have met all the requirements to come under GCFM umbrella.

Having non-profit status means that donors can deduct their contributions to Topsham Garden Club. 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