

TOPSHAM GARDEN CLUB MINUTES

Date: October 10, 2018

President Vicky Marr called the meeting to order at 1:50.

Attendance: members 16
guests: 1

Hostesses: Carole Flaherty and Lucette Musica
For November: Fay Eldred and Pixie Williams

Topsham Public Library Display

October: Nancy Simboli
November: Fay Eldred

Secretary's Report:

No corrections

Treasurer's Report

- Checking account: \$4956.51
Savings account: \$2514.32
- Income: 0
- Expenses: 150
- Membership: 41
- Proposed Budget: Treasurer Alison Harris distributed copies of the proposed budgets for June 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018 and also January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019. These budgets will be voted upon at the November 14 meeting.

President's Report

- Garden Club Federation of Maine (GCFM) Fall Conference is October 29 at the Augusta Civic Center, Augusta, Maine. Registration is \$30 until October 15 after which there is a \$15 late fee. There will be two speakers and lunch.
- There is concern about the low attendance of members at recent meetings. With that in mind Vicky is planning a board meeting in November to which all members are invited with the main topic for discussion being how to increase membership and how to keep current members involved.

New Business

- Mums Plus donated four mums to the garden club which were auctioned to Marie Neale, Marge Whipple, Nancy Simboli and Alison Harris.

Announcements and important dates

- November 14 program is Ellen Gibson of Maine AgrAbility whose talk will be “Gardening for All.” This organization offers assistance as to available resources to people with challenging health conditions to enable them to continue working in their field.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05.

The Program was by Reeser Manley and Marjorie Peronto discussing their book, “The Life of Your Garden.” A couple of key points are:

1. Global Biodiversity is the total number of species on the planet.
2. There are at least 6.5 million species of life on earth and an unknown number in the ocean.
3. Garden Biodiversity is the number of species in a garden.
4. Insects are the little things that run the garden.
5. Rejoice if there are chewed leaves in the garden because it means caterpillars are present and they are necessary food for young birds.
6. Let nature manage itself. Live and let live.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Neale
Secretary

**TOPSHAM GARDEN CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
October 10, 2018**

Checking Account Balance (as of October 10, 2018) **\$4,956.51**

Savings Account Balance (as of September 28, 2018) **\$2,514.32****

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

Membership:

We currently have 41 members for 2018-2019. According to our By-laws – both former and those amended on September 12, 2018 - 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 September 12, 2018 Treasurer's Report

- There was no income
- Expenses were \$150 for the programs in September and October
- Jean is owed for plants in the town and library gardens; invoice to be submitted

Proposed Budget

At our November meeting, I hope the membership will approve budgets for the current "stub" fiscal year (June 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018) and for the full 2019 fiscal year (January 1-December 31). The objective is to spend down our accumulated surplus in support of the club's mission. Draft budgets, available today, reflect a \$700 operating surplus for the "stub year" because it includes our two major fundraisers: the plant sale and the Christmas auction, as well as some dues payments. However, out of that surplus, we spent \$475 in one-time reimbursements to members for attendance at the GCFM Convention in June. The budget for 2019, while manageable because of our accumulated surplus, shows a \$700 operating deficit. It is a conservative budget, I hope, with income underestimated and expenses over-estimated. Then, if we undertake certain one-time projects, we will use about \$1,400 of our accumulated balance, leaving a \$3,223 in our checking account and our savings account of \$2,500 intact.

	June 1-Dec 31, 2018 PROPOSED		Jan 1-Dec 31, 2019 PROPOSED	
Starting balance	4,389.67	<i>in checking account</i>	4,615.16	<i>in checking account</i>
Income	2,158.00		2,400.00	
Recurring Expenses	(1,457.51)		(3,092.00)	
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	700.49	<i>to be added to surplus after recurring expenses</i>	(692.00)	<i>to be used from surplus after recurring expenses</i>

One-Time Expenses	(475.00)		(700.00)	
Ending Balance	4,615.16	<i>in checking account</i>	3,223.16	<i>in checking account</i>

Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	225.49	<i>to be added to surplus at end of year</i>	(1,392.00)	<i>to be used from surplus at end of year</i>
-----------------------------	--------	--	------------	---

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Harris, Treasurer