

TOPSHAM GARDEN CLUB MINUTES

Date: November 8, 2017

The Topsham Garden Club held its November meeting at the Topsham Public Library on November 8, 2017, with President Vicky Marr calling the meeting to order at 1:25 with recitation of the Gardeners Collect, the Conservation Pledge and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: 20 members
3 guests

Hostesses

For this meeting: Minka Wallis and Ann Williams

For the December meeting: Liz Volckening, Dorothy Gardner, Grace Anderson, Ann Williams, Jeanne d'Arc Mayo, and Vivian Wixom

Topsham Public Library Display

This month: Marge Whipple

Next month: Izza Johnson

Secretary's Report:

Minutes were sent electronically and/or mailed.

No corrections.

Moved to accept by: Vicky Marr

Seconded by: Liz Volckening

Treasurer's Report:

- Checking account: \$4439.95
Savings account: \$2512.05

- Income: \$5.00 donation from guest at October meeting
.22 interest on savings account

- Expenses: .00

- Financial forecast: anticipated May 31, 2018, surplus of over \$2400, in addition to the the \$2500 currently in savings account

- Suggestions to spend down the surplus include:
 - Increase contributions to groups we already support
 - Add gifts to additional organizations
 - Provide reimbursement to members for fees spent on GCFM activities
 - Create outreach materials and efforts to expand membership (pens, bookmarks)
 - Repair trough on Elm Street
 - Donate children's books on gardening to area schools and libraries.

- Membership: 45
New member, Marcia McGee was introduced.

President's Report:

- There will be an Executive Board meeting in January to which all are welcome to attend. Discussion will focus on suggestions and recommendations on ways to handle the above mentioned surplus. The Club will vote on these suggestions at the February meeting.
- In an effort to attract new members and also to renew the interest of our current members, the April Annual Meeting will be held at the Holden-Frost House in Topsham. It will be a pot luck lunch with guest speakers Suzanne Bushnell and Judith Stallworth on the topic of "Everything about Dahlias". This meeting will be well publicized to explain who we are and the work that we do.
- GCFM Fall Conference is November 14 at the Augusta Civic Center, Augusta, Maine. There will be two guest speakers:
 - Heather McCargo – "Using the Woodland Understory as a Design Model for Shady Gardens"
 - Jeff Karter – "Fall Fancies" who will create fall arrangement to be auctionedAddendum: seven members attended the Conference: Vicky Marr, Jean Herlihy, Fay Eldred, Marie Neale, Jean Haycock, Marcia McGee, Lucette Musica.
- The annual Blaine House Tea is Tuesday, December 5. The Kennebec Valley Garden Club decorates the Blaine House (State of Maine governor's home) for the holidays and Blaine House staff provides coffee/tea/and desserts. You must preregister to attend; contact Vicky for details.

New Business:

- Liz Volckening announced that the December meeting of the Garden Club will be held on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at the Holden-Frost House in Topsham, Maine, which is a change of venue as printed in the Yearbook. This members only meeting is a pot luck luncheon and auction. Members are to bring a lunch dish (casserole, salad, appetizer, etc.) and a nice quality item (or items) of at least a \$5.00 value to be auctioned. The hostesses will provide desserts.
- Jean Herlihy, along with Claudia Knox and anyone else interested, will plant eighty-five (85) red and white tulips at Topsham Town Hall on Thursday, November 9.

Announcements and important dates:

- November 14 GCFM Fall conference
- December 5 Blaine House Tea
- December 13 Topsham Garden Club Christmas Pot luck and Auction at Holden-Frost House, Topsham, Maine

Motion to adjourn at 1:50 by Marge Whipple and seconded by Minka Wallis.

The Program, which began at 12:00, was “Presence and Purpose—Lessons Learned about Gardening” by speaker, Debbie Atwood. She offered gardening tips and hints along with the advice that we do not have to know it all and we probably already know more than we think we know so do not be afraid to share that knowledge.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Neale
Secretary

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

Checking Account Balance (as of November 8, 2017)	\$4,439.95
Savings Account Balance (as of September 29, 2017)	\$2,512.05**

*** 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 November 8, 2017 we have 45 members for 2017-2018.

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 pay half price until the April Annual Meeting when all dues collected will be applied to the following year.

Fiscal Activity Since October 11, 2017 Business Meeting: We received a \$5 donation from a guest at our October meeting, and earned 22¢ interest on our savings account. I am anticipating an invoice for about \$95 for mums planted in our gardens this fall, and for tulip bulbs to ensure a red, white and blue display at Town Hall on Memorial Day.

Financial Forecast: The Executive Committee reviewed a financial forecast that anticipates a surplus of over \$2,400 on May 31, in addition to the \$2,500 we have in our savings account (\$1,500 for a "rainy day" and \$1,000 for a gift to the Riverwalk). The membership will need to decide how it chooses to spend the surplus. Suggestions to date include:

- increased contributions to groups we already support,
- gifts to additional organizations,
- reimbursing members for fees spent participating in GCFM activities,
- outreach materials and efforts to expand membership,
- repairing the trough on Elm Street,
- donating children's books on gardening to area schools and libraries.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Harris, Treasurer