

TOPSHAM GARDEN CLUB
Meeting Notes
Wednesday, July 10, 2019
at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Brunswick

After an illuminating and engaging presentation on “Common Bees of Maine” by Master Gardener Jean Vose, followed by a luncheon with refreshments provided by Patsy St. Pierre, Donna Truesdell Linkel, and Donna’s daughter, Ann Williams called the business meeting to order.

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Earth.

Meeting Notes from the June 12, 2019 meeting were approved as submitted.

Announcements:

- **Website Awards:** Ann announced that the Topsham Garden Club’s website won two awards at the recent Garden Club Federation of Maine (GCFM) annual convention: GCFM’s *Suzanne Bushnell Website Award* (shared with the Bath Garden Club) for a website designed and managed by a club member, and a First Place award from the National Garden Club for a website designed and managed by a club member in the group for clubs with 30-59 members. This is BIG NEWS! She thanked Alison Harris for creating and maintaining the website.
- **Program at Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens:** Ann announced a CMBG members-only program, “Roots in Our Soil: the Other Half of the Story,” on Saturday, August 20, 8:00-9:30 AM, on diverse soils and care of roots that will include a tour of the gardens.
- **Help for immigrant families:** Ann distributed information about a Portland initiative to provide cleaning and toiletry supplies.

Treasurer’s Report: Alison reported that the club currently has 45 members for the June 1, 2019-May 31, 2020 year. There is \$1,287.12 in the checking account, \$5,517.25 in the savings account and a bank of \$30 in change for raffles and auctions at meetings. (*A detailed report is attached.*)

Committee Reports:

- **Town Gardens:**
 - Jean Herlihy reported that there is a terribly invasive weed in the Town Hall garden, especially in the narrow front bed.
 - Ann said that the hose was missing at Town Hall. She or Jean will talk to Pam LeDuc about getting it restored.
 - ****There still are open slots for garden tending (weeks of July 28, August 25, September 22 and 29) and several weeks with only one member assigned. Contact Nancy Simboli to volunteer.**
- **Horticulture:**
 - Jean reminded everyone to make sure to remove any weeds from plants purchased from garden centers or plant sales to prevent the spread of invasives.
 - Because of the cold, wet spring it’s not too late to cut back plants like asters, “Lemon Queen,” and “Joe Pye Weed” to encourage flowering and discourage collapsing stems.

- Hospitality: **If you are unable to serve as hostess in your appointed week, please find a substitute and notify the Hospitality Chair, Patsy St. Pierre.
- Yearbook: Alison gave copies of the 2019-2021 Yearbook to attendees. The Welcome Committee (Marie Neale and Nancy Simboli) will distribute copies to other members.
- Topsham Fair: Marie made a report on activities to date.
 - The theme of our exhibit will be “*Watching Our Garden Club Grow – Celebrating Our 85th Anniversary.*”
 - Pam LeDuc has offered to print the banner at Town Hall.
 - The exhibit will include items reminiscent of early meetings (white gloves, dressy hat, tea cups & pot), materials from the archives, and items related to contemporary activities.
 - Marie asked members to lend potted plants for the exhibit with the warning that the Exhibition Hall is hot so the plants will suffer.
 - She will schedule a planning meeting to review photos and archival. All members are invited to attend.
 - There will be no printed booklet this year. All information is online at <https://topshamfair.net/2019-virtual-premium-book/>. Marie encouraged members to enter individual categories – plants, flowers, photography, crafts, food, etc. (*Rules for Class 17-Booth Exhibits start on page 26; the club will be entering in the “Garden Clubs” group.*)
 - Set-up will probably be Sunday, August 4 with “touch-up” (if permitted) on Monday, August 4. (To be confirmed by Marie.)

Old Business:

- Club Officers: Ann reminded everyone that we still need a Secretary and a Vice President to be in compliance with our By-Laws. She read the duties from the By-Laws:
 - Vice President: Shall assist the President in the work of the Club. In the absence of the President shall perform all presidential duties and obligations.
 - Secretary: Shall keep the minutes of all meetings and shall have charge of all papers pertaining to that office.

(*Note: After the meeting, Liz Volckening volunteered to serve as Vice President.*)

New Business:

- August 14, 2019 program will be a field trip to the University of Maine Gardens at Tidewater Farm in Falmouth with a tour by a Cooperative Extension Horticulturist starting at 10:00 AM.
- Possible Trip: Ann recommended an informal trip to Hummingbird Farm in North Turner in July when all the Clematis will be in bloom and available for sale at \$19.99 each.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Harris, Acting Secretary

Attached: Treasurer’s Report

**TOPSHAM GARDEN CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
July 10, 2019**

Checking Account Balance (as of July 10, 2019)	\$1,287.12
Bank for Raffles & Auctions at Meetings	30.00
Savings Account Balance (as of June 30, 2019)	\$5,517.25**

*** The Savings Account balance includes \$206.35 transferred from Norway Savings Bank in January 2010, \$1,500 for a "Rainy Day Fund;" balance of \$3,810.90 represents operating surplus accumulated plus interest earned since 2012. (\$1,000 for gift of bench for Androscoggin Riverwalk that had been kept in Savings Account has been folded in "surplus accumulated." \$2,000 gift to Riverwalk tp "purchase" bench was made on June 19, 2019 with funds then in checking account.)*

Membership:

We currently have 45 members for the June 1, 2019-May 31, 2020 year, including new members Ruth Johnson, Lucy Kuder and Sara Townsend – all from Topsham. Of the 48 2018-2019 members, 5 declined to renew for 2019-2020 or have not have not yet responded.

Dues (new or renewing members), as adopted in the 2019 budget, remain \$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 June 12, 2019 Treasurer's Report

- Income
 - 260.00 membership dues
 - \$260.00** Total Income
- Expenses
 - 2,000.00 Granite bench for Androscoggin Riverwalk
 - 125.00 Friends of the Topsham Public Library Business Membership
 - 225.00 Plants & fertilizer for town gardens
 - 25.00 Pansies for Annual Meeting
 - 105.00 Miscellaneous Plant Sale expenses
 - 125.00 Program expenses
 - 166.13 Printing 75 copies of the 2019-2021 Yearbook
 - \$2,771.13** Total Expenses
- Savings Account Interest:
 - .42 June 2019 interest
 - \$0.42** Total Interest

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Harris, Treasurer