Town and Country Garden Club Meeting Minutes

Community/Senior Center

October 9, 2024

Social gathering with refreshments- 5:30-6:00

The business meeting was called to order by Chris Lincoln at 6:04. She thanked tonight’s hostesses – Denise, Alexis, Teri, Mae, and of course Jane V. - for the food offerings and beverages.

**Minutes** from the September 11, 2024 meeting were approved without correction. Motion to accept was made by Jane Vouros and seconded by Arline Shanley.

**October Birthdays:** Chris gave a shout out to the 7 members who celebrate this month – Mary Ellen, Hillary, Barbara M, Holly, Jane V, Jane S, and Barbara O.

**Miscellaneous and Upcoming Events:**

The Victorian Tea as part of the NYFS Winter Festival is being revived, and our club has agreed to create 13 teapot arrangements again. Available teapots were displayed on a nearby table for those who volunteered to take, and one more volunteer is needed. Arrangements should be brought to the Alexandria Room on the 3rd floor of the Edmond Town Hall the morning of December 8th. The Festival Committee said our club could have an outdoor table without charge at the festival, but we declined for this year.

Chris reminded members who missed the September meeting to take a sample of the organic REV plant fertilizer, with information.

The FGCCT Awards Luncheon is Wednesday, the 16th. Our club has a table of 12 attending.

The Regional Hospice luncheon is scheduled for November 17th. If anyone wants to attend who hasn’t signed up yet, let Chris know.

Please remember to vote for Sal e Pepe on Connecticut Magazine’s website. Sal e Pepe’s website has a link to the voting. Let’s support them as much as we can, since they support us.

Chris reminded everyone about Maple Craft Foods. Our club receives 30% of all online sales to TCGC members and their supporters.

**Treasurer’s Report:**  Teri Doern reported the current balance is $6,771.90. That balance includes the recently received reimbursement check from the Borough for our spring and summer expenses. The Borough always pays our invoices without questions.

**Ways & Means:** Chris explained that we don’t currently have a committee chairperson. The committee members have decided that each member will take on the leadership of one fundraiser for the coming year or until a new chairman is appointed.

**Membership and Publicity:** Hillary Goldstein reported that our club’s Facebook page will include a link for anyone wanting to become a club member. She will post information about Maple Craft Foods and voting instructions for Sal e Pepe as well. She asked club members to send pictures to her for Facebook as well as sending them to Josie for our newsletter.

**Conservation:** Nancy Azzaro explained that the federal government is distributing $10 million to support the creation of new trails, and Connecticut has received $566,000 of that money. The grant can be used for planning, design, land acquisition, etc. A trail is currently planned from Norwalk to New Milford. It will be 55 miles long and will connect to 23 other trails.

Nancy reminded the members that there will be a Zoom presentation sponsored by the library about climate change and its effects on our forests on October 17th. There is a handout on each table with details. Go to the C. H. Booth Library website to sign up.

**Horticulture:** Barbara O’Connor reminded members to check houseplants for bugs when you bring them in for the winter. She also provided a handout about fertilizing houseplants, a timely guide for the fall and winter months. Barbara also announced a new garden club challenge – the snake plant. She handed out pieces of leaf to those interested in taking the challenge.

(It was noted at about this point in the meeting that Josie and Bob Schmidt provided our new microphone for this and future meetings after the old one was lost over the summer.)

**Holiday Tree:** Alexis Capaldo announced there will soon be a planning session for the decoration of this year’s holiday tree at the Newtown Community Center. The committee needs an idea for this year’s theme and also volunteers to create decorations and then assemble the tree. She passed around a clipboard for members to sign up if interested in participating. Alexis will try to schedule the first meeting so that all volunteers can attend.

**Hospitality:** Jane Vouros noted that she will need to make more coffee now that cold weather is here. She asked whether members continue to want cider and hot chocolate alternatives or not. They do!

**Outreach:** Gail Diminico explained that on October 18th from 12 to 1 pm there will be a Breast Cancer Awareness event and walk at Tammy’s Garden in Fairfield Hills.

The business meeting was adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Margareta Kotch and Barbara McCann talked about the line design exhibits which demonstrated the theme Asia- Lands of Mystery. Barbara O’Connor discussed the horticulture exhibits – colorful branches with berries or leaves.

At 7 p.m. the club welcomed Allison Middlemass from the Southbury Audubon Center, who gave a presentation about Native vs. Invasive Plants.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Kopesky, Recording Secretary