Town and Country Garden Club Meeting Minutes

Community/Senior Center

November 13, 2024

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

The business meeting was called to order by Holly Walczak at 6:01. She thanked tonight’s hostesses – Jan Gardner, Hillary Goldstein, Mae Grant and Jane V - for the refreshments.

**Birthdays:** Holly congratulated members who celebrate birthdays in November and December – Donna Miklaszewski, Alexis Capaldo, and Susan Adams.

**Minutes** from the October 9th, 2024 meeting were approved without correction. Motion to accept was made by Nancy Azzaro and seconded by Barbara O’Connor.

**Treasurer’s Report:**  Teri Doern reported a balance is $6,717.90. She also reminded the members that two of our annual expenses are the scholarships we support. We budget $250 for a donation to FGCCT scholarship program and $150 to the Connecticut Nurserymen’s scholarship program in honor of Chuck Newman. Both scholarship programs support students who are working toward agriculture-related courses of study.

Teri had placed flags on all three islands for Veterans’ Day, and she thanked Joy for removing them afterwards.

**Miscellaneous:**

The Regional Hospice breakfast was held November 7th. A full table of our members signed up, so we were well represented.

Someone from the Mary Hawley Public Service Award committee will be meeting with our executive committee to educate us about the award. Gordon Williams, husband of our member Lina Williams, was the first award recipient.

Our annual holiday party will be held December 4th from 5:30 to 8:30 at the Newtown Country Club. Cost per person is $25, which includes heavy appetizers and dessert. There is a cash bar, and spouses are welcome. Committee members are Jan Gardner, Gail Diminico (a country club member – thank you, Gail) and Josie Schmidt. Josie will send out a notice soon. We should sign up by November 27by sending money to Teri Doern.

Several of our members will be delivering teapot flower arrangements to the Alexandria Room in Edmond Town Hall on Sunday, December 8th at 10:30 to benefit Newtown Youth and Family Services. The remaining teapot was taken home by Donna M.

Holly reminded us to patronize our sponsors, Sal e Pepe and Shakespeare’s Garden. The latter gives us 10% discount on plant materials. Maple Craft Foods is also a good source for holiday gifts; visit their web site, and the club gets money back.

The Sunshine Committee chair position is open. We are looking for a volunteer. Meanwhile, Donna M. will send an invitation to the Newmans for our holiday party.

**Awards:** Joy Kopesky reported on the awards won by our club at the annual Federated Garden Clubs of CT Awards Luncheon on October 16th. They were as follows: A Civic Creativity Award for our “most original” designation in the 2023 Annual Scarecrow Contest; an Award of Excellence, Horticulture, Medium Club for the floral design activities in the 2023-24 year (with a big shout-out to Arline Shanley, Barbara O’Connor, Margareta Kotch, and Peggy Townsend); a Good Deed Citation to Teri Doern for her many contributions to the club; a Club Certificate of Appreciation to Charles Newman for his support and friendship over the past six decades; and a Certificate of Individual Achievement for encouraging outreach activities by club members, especially in the 2022-23 year.

Joy also explained how the award system is structured by FGCCT and encouraged club members to make award nomination suggestions to the Awards Committee – Barbara McCann, Jane Sharpe, and herself.

**Communication:** Josie reminded members that our club’s website address in on the back cover of the Membership Handbook. She asked us all to take a look at the web site and said she is updating it. As always, she is requesting member biographies for our newsletter.

**Membership:** Denise Rod told us that attending the Awards dinner renewed her commitment to encouraging new memberships in our club. We have so many activities and so much commitment to the environment that people outside the club may not know about. If each of us spreads the word to one or two other people, we can expand our ranks. Our brochures are on display in many places around town, and ideas for new locations are welcome. Hillary reminded us to “follow” our Facebook page in order to reach more Facebook members to promote the club. She will send a picture of how to become a follower.

Donna said that Shannon Hicks at The Bee is interested in doing an article about our 60th anniversary. It will be wonderful publicity for us. It was suggested that Jane Sharpe be involved in creating the article for the Bee. Lina Williams was our historian for many years and has a wealth of historical information. Barbara O has many articles also.

**Scarecrow:** This year’s entry in the Park and Rec’s Annual Scarecrow Project was amazing. Teri thanked all the members of the committee for their dedication to the project. A few of the husbands helped as well.

**Conservation:** Nancy told us that Governor Lamont recently announced a bond to upgrade our state parks for our use and also to attract tourism. Some of the money is being used to repair damage from that terrible rainfall this past summer.

**Horticulture:** Nancy (doing double duty this month) cautioned that we are in the worst drought in state history, and droughts may recur in the future. She suggested planting members of the sedum family, which are drought-tolerant. She also explained how easy they are to propagate; for many types, just put a stem or some leaves in the soil. She listed several drought-tolerant plants and also suggested using rocks in your new garden designs for interest and water control. Connecticut has LOTS of them.

**Hospitality:** Jane Vouros reminded everyone to identify your “hostess” month by looking in the Membership Handbook. The newsletter also lists hostesses for the coming month.

**Holiday Tree:** Alexis Capaldo and Jane V reported that the “60th Anniversary” themed ornaments are almost complete for the upcoming holiday tree. It will be trimmed at the Newtown Community Center on December 6th.

Barbara O’Connor commented on the horticulture entries. She reminded everyone that ideas for the month’s floral display can be seen in the Handbook, in the newsletter, and also online.

The business meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Kopesky, Recording Secretary