

Minutes of RIFGC Board Meeting
March 26, 2015

The meeting was called to order at the Roger Williams Park Casino at 10:19 am by President Sandi Tinyk. Sandi wished everyone a happy Spring, hopefully, finally!

Recording Secretary Lisa Pollack called the roll. 18 Clubs were represented.

Treasurer Bernie Larivee reported a checking account balance as of February 28, 2015 of \$15,767.66; a balance in the CD accounts of \$102,134.82; with a total for all accounts of \$117,902.48. The report was filed for audit.

President's Report: Sandi Tinyk announced that due to the date change and some serious illness only nine people ended up visiting Costa Rica. RIFGC earned approximately \$3800 in commission from Collette. The trip was in celebration of our 85 years. That money will, in part, be seed money for a Fall flower show. It was an excellent trip for all, even with the delayed return due to a volcanic eruption! There will be photos of the trip at the Annual Luncheon.

Details of the "Art in Bloom" Fall flower show are still being worked out, given the departure of Joe Novak from the Botanical Center. It is possible that the show can still be held at the Botanical Center pending approval, and dates are not yet firm, though the plan is to hold it during September or October.

The date for the annual free Education Day has not yet been scheduled. As soon as the flower show dates are set, Sandi will be able to schedule the Education Day and clubs will be notified promptly, so that this information can be printed in yearbooks.

The NGC annual convention will take place May 12-18 in Louisville, KY.

The NER Annual Meeting and Symposium have been split into two events this year, at different times and in different locations.

The NER Symposium will take place September 2-4 at the Radisson in Manchester, NH. Penny Decker (from MA and FL), Arabella Dane (from MA and NH), and Pam Braun (from TN) will be the instructors.

The NER Annual Meeting will take place October 20-21 at the Hampton Inn & Suites in downtown Portsmouth, NH.

Remember, our own Vera Bowen will be the NER Director in the Fall.

Committee Reports:

Annual Meeting: Darcy Scott reminded us that the meeting and luncheon will be at the Imperial Room in Cranston on April 23. She is selling tickets today. Susan Detjens will be presenting "flowerflinging." She is a new designer for most of us. So far, about 150 tickets have been sold and there are only 180 seats available in total. Unsold tickets must be returned by April 10 for a refund.

Awards: Sandi Tinyk reminded us not to forget about the \$2000 available from RIFGC for annual community project awards. Clubs should think about projects they are working on or would like to work on in their communities. Apply by April 1 by writing up the project – really this is just a brief description of how your Club will use the grant – and sending it to Sandi Tinyk. So far only one Club has applied this year. Recipients are expected to submit a report one year after the award, at the conclusion of their project or a progress report if the project is a longer term one.

Blue Star: Candace Morgenstern reminded us that Sogkonate Garden Club and Gentian Garden Club are both installing markers on Memorial Day, May 25. The National chair will be at Gentian's ceremony; Vera Bowen and Candace will be attending the Sogkonate ceremony as NER representatives.

Sandi Tinyk encouraged Clubs to work together, where possible, to install a marker, such as Barrington and Hameho are doing.

Design Study: Sue Redden announced that the next BDS session will be Wednesday, April 1 at the Barn at Mount Hope Farm in Bristol. Sue will be the instructor for the session: a centerpiece with a little bit of difference! Please bring a box or charger plate to carry home your centerpiece with ease.

The schedule for ADS is available from Vicki Iannuccillo.

Bee Gap: Marnie Sandham reported that she is getting ready to place an order for Mason Bee kits. Kits are \$70 if they are in partnership with a public garden or nursery, or \$190 otherwise. She is starting with Mason Bees, but may graduate into Leaf Cutter Bees eventually. These are all friendly bees and require no netting or smoke! Gentian and Portsmouth Garden Clubs will have bee keepers as speakers this year. Do what you can to support these pollinators and others in helping our environment.

Finance: Vera Bowen reported that the committee met this morning and approved the budget. It will be presented and voted on at the next meeting.

Nominating: In Chairman Judy Hager's absence, Rochelle Kieron distributed the ballots for the new Board and the next Nominating Committee. (See election results below.) The Chair of the Nominating Committee is the immediate-former President, so Sandi Tinyk will fill that position in 2017.

Flower Show Schools: Sue Redden announced that she, NER Director-Elect, Vera Bowen, and incoming Judges' Council Chair, Vicki Iannuccillo travelled to Las Vegas last month to attend the Instructors' Symposium. 40 instructors each gave 30-minute presentations.

RI will host the NER Symposium again in 2017.

MA is offering Course II on April 29 and 30th and May 1st at the Doubletree in Framingham.

Flower Shows: Thanks to all for their help and support for the RI Show last month. Many positive comments were heard from the public and the judges. People thought the youth sailboats were great. Thanks to the following for their Education Exhibits: Jackie Marro on bees; Cathy Moore on terrariums; and Elaine DiChiara on Ikebana.

The raffle was great! Raffle Chair Bernie Larivee reported gross sales of \$8331, before expenses.

Sandi Tinyk was thrilled with the 140 horticulture entries, especially remarkable given the snow!

Marnie Sandham was thanked for her work rallying the hostesses. She reported that 14 Clubs had a total of 55 members volunteer for the jobs.

"Spring Fling" is the overall title of the show for 2016.

Bristol is presenting a standard placement show: "Blithewold – The Good Life" on Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19.

Gentian is presenting a standard placement show: "Quintessential Country...A Study of Flora, Fauna, and Fancy" at the home of their current Co-President, Jackie Marro, on Saturday, May 16.

Habitat for Humanity: Sandi Tinyk reported Karen Kestenberg can always use more help for the landscape installation. There is still not a date, given the snow on the ground!

Historian: Sandi Tinyk reported that Adelaide Clifford has completed her report and submitted it to NGC. She's been doing a fabulous job working on closing up the gaps in the records.

Horticulture: Linda Alves thanked Sandi for making her Chair. Her report today is all about Spring!!! It's time to start fertilizing your houseplants, but not full force.

You should also increase the watering of your houseplants.

It's a great time to start seeds: put them in a warm dark area until they sprout and then move them into indirect sun.

Spring fever is a real thing, with blood vessels expanding and giving people a Spring in their step!

Think of all the songs about Spring, including: "April in Paris," "I Can See Clearly Now," and "Here Comes the Sun."

Remember that Arbor Day is April 22.

Life Member: BJ Stephens reported that this is her last meeting as Chair, a position she's held for the past four years. She announced a change in the Working Rules, which will allow a Chair to serve four 2-year terms.

Vera Bowen read the slate of officers for the incoming Board for the Life Member Group:

Chair, Sharon Gainey
Vice Chair, De Feldman
Recording Secretary, Holly Lippert
Corresponding Secretary, Lisa Pollack
Finance Chair, Vera Bowen
Scholarship Chair, Lynne Merrill

The next event will be a luncheon at the Dunes Club on August 20. More details will follow.

Life Member Scholarship: BJ Stephens reported that we had great applicants this year, thanks to Janice Panoff. Four people applied, though only two ended up being eligible. Lauren Breen, who's been a winner already, has been awarded a scholarship for her senior year. She's studying sustainable farming and her application has also been submitted for the NGC scholarship. The other scholarship was awarded to Matthew Crudale, who is going into his junior year at URI where he is majoring in horticulture.

NEWS: Sandi Tinyk remarked on the new personality that Blakely Szosz has given the NEWS. Her creativity has certainly elevated the appearance of the NEWS.

There is a May 1 deadline for the June issue.

There is an August 1 deadline for the September issue.

Please continue to send articles to Sandi Tinyk for approval. She will then forward them to Blakely for inclusion.

Photographer: Sandi Tinyk was thrilled to announce that we now have a Federation Photographer! Deb Ort, Sogkonate's President has stepped up for the job. Thank you and congratulations.

Nominating: Rochelle Kieron reported the Election results:

Board:

President, Catherine Moore, Gardeners of Westerly
First Vice President, Blakely Szosz, Barrington Garden Club
Second Vice President, Ann Huntoon, Gentian Garden Club
Recording Secretary, Anne Jarvis, Portsmouth Garden Club
Corresponding Secretary, Marnie Sandham, Cindy Wood Garden Club
Treasurer, Bernie Larivee, Edgewood Garden Club
Ex-Officio, Sandi Tinyk, Barrington Garden Club

Nominating Committee for 2017:

Chair, Sandi Tinyk, Barrington Garden Club
Vera Bowen, Bristol Garden Club
Sharon Gainey, Gentian Garden Club
Vicki Iannuccillo, Bayberry Garden Club

Website: Sandi Tinyk reminded us that Holly Lippert is the webmaster, but that everything should be sent to Sandi first for approval.

Youth: Chair, Rochelle Kieron reported that although ten clubs had expressed interest, she only received entries from Sogkonate. From their ten entries, Rochelle submitted four to the NER. Rochelle showed a sample of the goodies she'd given out.

Rochelle announced that Sue Talbot of Sogkonate will be the new Youth Chair.

Announcements:

Western Cranston is having an open meeting on April 10th with the Farmer's Daughter presenting Fairy Gardens at 7:00 pm at Sheperd of the Valley Church in Scituate.

Bristol will be holding a cocktail party at Blithewold during their flower show there. It will take place on Saturday evening, April 18, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$25 per person and proceeds will go to their scholarship fund.

Gentian is having a flower show on Saturday, May 16 at the home of Jackie Marro at 449 Danielson Pike in Scituate.

Edgewood has a few spots left for their trip to Provincetown on Wednesday, June 10. 56 seats have been sold, with 38 of those being Edgewood members. The bus will leave Cranston and stop for another pickup at Cardi's in Swansea. There will be a tour of the National Seashore on the way; tea and coffee upon arrival served by a B&B; a booklet of gardens to tour; lunch is on your own; and the day will end with a wine and cheese party, possibly at the Lands End Inn. The bus will depart from Provincetown around 5:00 pm, and should be back in Cranston by 7:30 pm. Please mail your check to Bernie Larivee if you're interested in joining the group.

The next Board meeting will be Thursday, April 23, 2015 at 10:00 am, before the Annual Meeting, at the Imperial Room in Cranston.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa B. Pollack,
Recording Secretary

