

Minutes of RIFGC Board Meeting
October 22, 2015

The meeting was called to order at the Roger Williams Park Casino at 10:11 am by President Cathy Moore. Cathy had just returned from the NER Annual Meeting where she'd been for past two days, along with eight other RI members. Sandi thanked all those in attendance for accommodating the change of dates for the Educational Day, noting that it had been a horrendous month for her calendar!

Filling in for Recording Secretary Annette Jarvis, Lisa Pollack called the role. 21 Clubs were represented. Stephanie McCarthy, new President of Governor Francis Farms Garden Club, was introduced.

Corresponding Secretary Marnie Sandham read a note from Sogkonate GC thanking RIFGC for its grant of \$425 toward the placement of a Blue Star Marker in Little Compton.

Marnie read a letter from Bonnie Borne, NGC Scholarship Chair acknowledging Lauren Breen as the 2014 Scholarship recipient.

Committee Reports:

Life Member Scholarship: Lynne Merrill encouraged members to encourage those in need of Scholarship funds to applying. Those from sophomore year through senior year, and those in Master's degree programs in fields as diverse as botany, agronomy, and environmental concerns are eligible, as long as they come from towns with clubs affiliated with RIFGC. Applications are due by February 1. She reminded us that this year's winner was also a recipient of NGC funds for the second year in a row.

Annual Meeting and Luncheon: De Feldman announced that reservations will be taken starting at the December meeting. The date is April 28, 2016, and each seat will be \$37. The event will be at the Quidnessett Country Club in North Kingstown. Tables for 10, and a few for 12, will be available. As in previous years, clubs will be allowed to return unsold tickets for a refund, provided they are given back several weeks before the event. An exact deadline for refund will be announced. Kent Russell, the "Garden Guru," will be coming from Pennsylvania to present. He will bring a truckload of unusual perennials to sell that day. (See flyer, attached.)

Treasurer's Report: Bernie Larivee reported a checking account balance as of September 30, 2015, of \$48,542.24; a balance in other accounts of \$78,108.42; with a total for all accounts of \$126,649.66. The report was filed for audit.

Bernie reported that the following Clubs still have not paid their dues:

- Apple Blossom
- Barrington
- Bristol
- East Greenwich/Warwick
- Jamestown
- Newport
- Perennial Planters
- Tiverton

Vera Bowen requested that in the meantime Bernie send a check ASAP for \$1000 to NGC, as dues for additional members can be sent at a later date. If RIFGC's dues are not received at NGC by October 31, we will lose our eligibility to compete for national awards.

Awards: Holly Lippert announced that Yearbooks are due today, or must be mailed to her ASAP. Holly placed flyers in President's boxes with all the awards deadlines. (See flyer, attached.) Applications for NGC awards are due next week.

Sue Redden, co-Chair of NER Awards along with BJ Stephens, announced awards given to Gentian, RIFGC, Sogkonate, and Sue Redden. Cathy Moore distributed the awards. (See full list of NER awards, attached.)

Bee Gap: Marnie Sandham announced that she will be placing another order for Mason Bees in the Spring. She will have a full report on the program in January.

Blue Star: Candace Morgenstern reported that Barrington and Hameho clubs have approval now from their towns. She will be sending in their application. Chatham Village is seriously considering pursuing a Blue Star designation.

Book Review: Sandi Tinyk reported that The Frightened Frog, a book for early readers, is now in its third printing by NGC. There is a curriculum that can be downloaded for use with the book. Rochelle Kieron noted that Portsmouth GC had donated copies of the book to the public library and two elementary schools in town in memory of their former President, Dottie Leonard. Hameho has given a copy to the Barrington school.

In lieu of a book review, the next issue of the News will have a list of recommended books in time for holiday purchase.

Education Day: Sandi Tinyk reported that the date was changed to Thursday, November 19. The deadline to register with Marnie Sandham for lunch (\$14 from Revolutions) is November 12. The programs will take place from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the RWP Botanical Center.

Cathy Moore will demonstrate how to make succulent pumpkins; Candace Morgenstern will demonstrate door designs; Vera Bowen will present on preparing and transporting horticulture for a flower show; Blakely Szosz will demonstrate container gardens for the holidays. All demonstration creations will be part of an Opportunity Drawing.

Art in the Garden: Sandi Tinyk reported that the celebration of RIFGC's 85th anniversary was a great success, with 104 tickets sold. She was thankful for having Blakely Szosz as her co-chair, along with all her art contacts. Vera Bowen did a superb job with staging the event. Darcy Scott was in charge of ticket sales. Blakely Szosz and Barbara Blossom loaned art for use in the show. Vicki Iannuccillo had one of her own paintings in the show. The arrangements were fantastic.

Though the event had not been intended to be a fundraiser, the event turned a profit of \$1540, including \$495 worth of raffle ticket sales.

Finance Committee: Vera Bowen reported that the meeting was postponed and will now take place before the December 3 meeting. They will be looking at the Flower Show budget, and De Feldman has already turned in the budget for the Annual Meeting and Luncheon.

RI Flower Show: Candace Morgenstern reported that there is a photography class again this year; along with a challenge class for a spouse; and another class that can be done by two people. There is a bulb challenge for Garden Club presidents (or a designee) using the amaryllis bulbs that will be given to them at the Holiday luncheon. The preliminary schedule is on the website. Marj Deangelis and Barbara Blossom are handling design entries. Cathy Moore distributed butterfly masks for decoration as the youth artistic craft. They are due back to her at the January meeting. She has 150 to give out, but they come from China and there will be no others available.

Garden Therapy: As her article was inadvertently left out of the last issue of the News, Rochelle Kieron spoke about a project Portsmouth has done at Atria Assisted Living. Using greens from her own garden, purchased flowers, and teacups from a thrift shop, they soak small blocks of Oasis and let the residents design

their own small arrangements. Rochelle showed us all a model arrangement. This can be a very inexpensive program, or can go way up in price depending on the cost of the components you choose to purchase. Let the participants' creativity reign!

Habitat for Humanity: In Karen Kestenberg's absence, Cathy Moore reported that the house in Bristol would not be ready for planting until next spring. Since the decision was made to use more mature trees and shrubs in order to increase their chances of survival, the past few homes have cost about \$1500 each to landscape. We also provide a gardening gift basket for the residents, including items like a hose, clippers and gloves. Funds have been depleted as a result of the higher costs for mature plantings. Karen has applied for a grant from Ames (toolmakers) to add to our funds. Plans are being made to hold a walkathon tour of Roger Williams Park next June after the RIFGC Board meeting as a fundraiser, with lunch after the walk. Details to be announced at a later date. Betty Ann Taylor suggested that perhaps members could donate "gently used" garden tools for inclusion in the gift baskets. Vera Bowen said that any such items not used by Habitat projects could be taken to the prisons for use in the gardens there.

Horticulture: Linda Alves noted how important it is to mulch well any fall plantings that you put in. Fall is a good time to plant as there is still time for roots to take hold and there is typically a lot more moisture in the fall and winter than in the summer. She also suggested that if you're putting in fall bulbs it's great to save some of them in your refrigerator so you can force them indoors after the holidays for some much-needed winter color.

Design Study: In Vicki Iannuccillo's absence, Cathy Moore announced that the next session will be Wednesday, November 4 at St. Matthew's Church, 87 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown. Cathy will be instructing participants in parallel design, one of the design entries for the February flower show. She promises a colorful design!

There were 27 participants in the October class, which took place in the Bristol Recreation Center, a new and well-liked site for the class.

On January 20, Candace Morgenstern will be leading a session in Tiverton on an artistic craft. Ann Huntoon will be the instructor on April 6 in North Scituate for a creative design.

Member Services: Cathy Moore has ordered Vision of Beauty calendars. They will be available for purchase at the December meeting, likely at a price of \$7.

Cathy is also looking at purchasing some other items from NGC for members to purchase at future meetings.

Website: Cathy noted that the site is in good shape, thanks to lots of work by Holly Lippert, Adelaide Clifford, and Blakely Szosz. It was mentioned that perhaps in the spring there would be a session for people interested in web design to get together and share ideas.

Holiday Luncheon: Cathy Moore is working on setting up some musical entertainment. The luncheon is \$33 per person and will take place on the first floor of the RWP Casino after the meeting on December 4. Reservations are being handled by Marnie Sandham. (See flyer, attached.) At Sandi Tinyk's suggestion, Cathy Moore will order 15 copies of The Frightened Frog to sell at the meeting. These will good holiday gifts for grandchildren!

Youth: In Sue Talbot's absence, Cathy Moore reported that RI does not have a state butterfly. Sue and Cathy are working on plans to have children involved in researching and picking the right butterfly to represent the state.

Regarding the September Minutes, nicely recorded by Marnie Sandham, there were a few corrections approved by Cathy Moore. The updated Minutes have been posted on the website.

Announcements:

Lisa Pollack thanked Cathy Moore, Blakely Szosz, Vera Bowen, Sue Redden, and BJ Stephens for presenting at Angle Tree's October meeting. Their program was titled "A Fresh Look at the Federation," and Lisa encouraged other clubs to have them speak.

Lisa also gave a shout out to Elaine DiChiara for her outstanding design work and demonstration at Tower Hill Botanic Garden's recent Ikebana show.

Bernie Larivee needs raffle items for the February flower show. They can be left at his home.

Bernie Larivee distributed raffle proceeds to individual clubs. Based on a 60% return of profits, each ticket sold was worth \$0.84 this year. Rochelle Kieron noted that a member of Portsmouth GC had won the \$1000 prize, and Priscilla DiMarco won the \$500 prize.

Vera Bowen noted that Julie Christina, of Bristol GC, works at Blithewold. When NGC President Sandy Robinson was in town last month they took her to visit Blithewold. As a result, Blithewold is now an Affiliate member of RIFGC.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Pollack, Acting Recording Secretary