

Thursday, September 24, 2015

## **Minutes Board Meeting of the RIFGC**

Meeting opened at 10am with the introduction of the National Garden Club's visiting president, Sandra Robinson. She is here to help us celebrate our 85th anniversary as a Federated Garden Club.

"President Robinson says that she was originally encouraged to become a leader in the NGC by a Rhode Islander and that one of her pleasures is visiting clubs across the nation. NGC members are "hands in the dirt gardeners", hard-working individuals who care, preserve and serve". Her personal challenge to us today was to remember the youth. "A gift of a Rhode Island Pandora charm was graciously accepted by Sandy.

Minutes for the previous meeting were approved. Role was called and Cathy Moore stated that the club file folder box/chairperson file **is** back in action on the side table. Members should pick up their flyers etc. before each meeting. Most information will also be posted on the NGC or RIFGC website. Clubs may also disburse information to other clubs by putting info in the folders or placing it on the table.

Flyers disbursed today include: A calendar of events/website reference, Club president list, chairpersons list, Annual Meeting SAVE THE DATE (4/28/2016) NGC President's Special Projects Awards 2015-16 list, Million Garden Challenge, Ideas for Club Yearbooks, Preliminary Garden Show Schedules, and a packet covering the 4 youth Contest from NGC.

**Save the Date-** Annual Meeting & luncheon: Thursday April 28, 2016, at Quidnessett CC@ 10am. AWARDS will be presented. Kent Russell, renown horticulturist, will demonstrate how to enhance your garden with unusual perennials and there will be a sale of valuable plants after the program to benefit our organization.

Details of the 85th anniversary celebration, which will be held this evening, were covered by Blakely. Everyone was encourage

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to buy tickets today or at the door if they haven't already done so. The floral designs are not being judged.

**NEWS:** Blakely Szosz will send a corrected version of the latest NEWS(Sept.) if you email her as the one sent didn't contain Rochelle Kieron's fine Garden Therapy article. Deadline for the next Dec.-Feb. NEWS is Nov. 1st. Blakely is working on a FACEBOOK Page for the RIFGC. If you send pictures to her, please attribute the floral design to the creator and mention the name of the individuals/club pictured.

**Education Day:** Sandi Tinyk reports that the planning for our free education day is going well. It is being held on Thurs, October 15, 2015 from 10am to 2pm at RW Botanical Garden. There will be three demonstrations and a box lunch break. The demonstrations are 1) Cathy Moore's "Succulent Pumpkin Planter", 2) Candace Morgenstern's "Not Your Grandmother's Door Design", & 3) Mary Jane's "Papermaking". A flyer/signup will be sent out in the next few days.

**Books:** Books chairman Sandi Tinyk reported that The Frightened Frog, which is offered solely by the NGC, is in its 2nd printing it is proving to be a great gift for children, schools and libraries. It encourages cleaning up the environment so that species (ie. frogs) aren't threatened.

Vickie announced that **Beginner's Design Study** is being held Weds., Oct.7, 2015 at 9:30am at Mt. Hope Farm. De Feldman is the presenter. If interested contact Linda Kirkpatrick or Marge DeAngelis. Advance design will meet at noon w/ a mini-schedule. Please bring your design. Judge's Council will meet at 9am at the Bristol Parks and Recreation Ctr. (use the Colt Park Entrance). Bring a lunch.

Sue Redden announced the milestones that Barbara Blossom and Linda Kirkpatrick have passed hurdles in their efforts towards becoming Judges. The information is also in the NEWS. Cynthia O'Malley, Janice Panoff and Gisela Rodgers audited the Symposium held in Manchester, NH September 2-4. Also attending were De Feldman, Candace Morgenstern, Vera Bowen, Vicki Iannuccillo, Ann

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Huntoon, and Barbara Blossom. The next Symposium is being held in Milford, MA October 18-20, 2016. Mary Huntoon is the Design Instructor and Darlene Newell, Horticulture. Ann Huntoon will also be attending. Judges going to NH will be De Feldman, Jan Panoff, Candace Morgenstern, Ann Huntoon.

Holly requested the name of the **Awards** Chairperson from all clubs. She will be contacting all Awards persons. Please send two copies of your club Yearbooks to her by October's Board Meeting.

Candace Morgenstern gave us a pep talk on committing to doing a **Blue Star Memorial**. Barrington will be creating a memorial this year. There are 10 in RI already and our state was the first to do this back in the 1940's. She went on to talk to us in detail about the projected **2016 Garden/Flower Show on Feb. 18-22**. The theme is **SPRING-in Living Color**. She showed us props, described designs and mentioned a "bulb challenge" for presidents and imaginative Youth projects (a caterpillar and a mask). Ann Huntoon will be handling staging among other aspects of the show.

**Habitat for Humanity** will be planting in the Spring 2016 as the current house is just framed and not ready for landscaping. There is a Walkathon planned in June after our Board Meeting to raise funds for H for H so that we can afford mature plantings that are easier for new homeowners to care for. It was suggested that we start a Landscape Council to oversee the plantings at one year.

Linda Alves reports for **Horticulture** that Impatiens are still affected by downy mildew, but New Guinea Impatiens are fine. Turnips and kale are sweetened by delaying harvesting. She saw a few monarch butterflies this summer on her milkweed. The NGC has asked what our state butterfly is. Email Cathy with suggestions. The Million Garden Challenge from NGC handout explains the current effort to increase pollinators.

Bernie Larivee gave a thorough **treasurer's** report which was approved. A copy can be obtained from Bernie and it can be

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found in the members only section of our website. The total in our treasury is \$128,297.02

**President's Project:** Cathy Moore- Breast Cancer Awareness Garden at South County Hospital. Plans are coming right along and Cathy will be requesting grants soon for the 20-30K to bring it to fruition. If that goes well another may be established at the RW Botanical Garden. Plant it Pink was mentioned and the fact that men are also at risk for breast cancer.

**Youth:** Sue Talbot reported on the 4 contests offered by NGC again this year (poster, poetry, sculpture and essays). Materials to encourage students/youth to become involved are available through Sue or the NCG website. There are incentive prizes and award ideas also. Susan Talbot: [corgiplace@aol.com](mailto:corgiplace@aol.com)

**Anniversary:** We honored Rehoboth Garden Club for their 80th Anniversary of being a member of RIFGC, Inc.

**Announcements:** Our next RIFGC Board meeting is October 22, 2015 at the Casino. On Sept. 28, 2015 - *Sogkonate/Tiverton* (contact: [debort@cox.net](mailto:debort@cox.net)) are jointly presenting Julie Lampton, designer in a program at 1PM at the clubhouse. Refreshment are available and the guest fee is \$5.00. This Saturday, 9/26/15 the *Edgewood GC* will be having a plant/bake sale at in Pawtuxet Village, which is celebrating 100 years of restoring the cove. The Farmer's market runs from 1-3 and Edgewood will be near the rotunda in the afternoon. *Portsmouth* is having a Yard Sale the Saturday, 9/26, 9am to 1pm at the Aquidneck Island Christian Academy at 321 East Main Rd., Portsmouth.

Respectfully submitted,

Marnie Sandham , Acting Recording Secretary