

Minutes of RIFGC Board Meeting
March 24, 2016

The meeting was called to order at the Roger Williams Park Casino at 10:11 am by President Cathy Moore. Cathy called the role. 17 Clubs were represented.

Second Vice President, Deb Ort, briefly described her duties: she receives internet inquiries about membership in local clubs; writes a letter of thank you; forwards the info to appropriate club presidents, and asks those presidents to follow up with her so she knows whether the potential member has joined.

Treasurer Bernie Larivee thanked everyone for their prayers and good wishes and declared that they'd paid off as he is now cancer-free and feeling grateful and fantastic.

Bernie presented his report for January 1, 2016 to February 29, 2016.

Checking balance on 12/31/2015:	\$44,787.50
Deposits:	11,087.00
Cash disbursements:	<u>9,020.03</u>
Checking balance on 2/29:	\$46,854.47
CD and money market balance on 2/29:	<u>78,293.73</u>
Total balance of accounts on 2/29/2016:	\$125,148.20

Committee Reports:

Annual Meeting and Luncheon: De Feldman, Chair, reported that the linens and menu have been picked. She urged clubs to generate excitement about the meeting and speaker. Kent Russell will be bringing specialty plants that will be for sale after the meeting. The Business Meeting with award presentations will begin at 10:00; there will be a break for shopping; lunch will start at noon.

Awards: Holly Lippert, Chair, reported that there were over fifty submissions for awards this year. She reminded all that the awards will be presented at the meeting on April 28.

Cathy Moore raised the possibility of Holly giving a program on applying for awards after a future business meeting, or the possibility of her going to individual clubs to give presentations.

Bee Gap: Marnie Sandham, Chair, talked about the dangers to pollinators of pesticides, especially those with neonicotinoids, on lawns and gardens. She urged members to replace lawns with flowering perennials and shrubs. She described the process of putting mason bees out. Sheryle McGookin, President of Edgewood, accepted mason bees from Marnie, and thanked Marnie for the presentation given at her club last month. The bees they received today will be donated by Edgewood to a local school.

Blue Star: Cathy Moore announced that Western Cranston's installation will take place on Earth Day, Barrington and Hameho will have their installation ceremony on May 30. For further information about Blue Star, contact Candace Morgenstern, Chair.

Garden Therapy: Rochelle Kieron, Chair, shared Easter-related traditions of weaving palms from Palm Sunday into intricate shapes and using onion skins to dye eggs. She urged everyone to bring yellow, the color of spring, into their homes, or take yellow flowers to someone else.

Flower Shows: Sue Redden, Chair, reminded all that the Newport Flower Show will be held June 24 to June 26 at Rosecliff.

Rehoboth is planning a "September Splendor" flower show for September 12.

Cathy Moore thanked anyone and everyone who participated in any way at the state flower show in February. It was a lot of work; there was lots of color; and next year will be discussed.

Habitat for Humanity: Cathy Moore reported that she and Karen Kestenberg were at the house in Bristol earlier in the week and they now have a rough plan for landscaping. The planting will wait until sometime in May, after the yard has been seeded.

Funds are low. It costs about \$1500 to plant each house. Mature plans are more expensive, but they have a better chance of survival. Cathy is planning a September (not June, as previously discussed) walkathon at Roger Williams Park with an historical bent. This will probably take place after the Board meeting, followed by lunch somewhere in the park. She hopes to announce details at the April meeting.

Horticulture/Environment: Linda Alves, Chair, a URI Master Gardener, urged everyone to plant a garden, not grass! She then went on to talk about Winter Moths and their life cycles and possible ways to deal with them. She also suggested that each of us plant a new flower or vegetable this year, reminding us how much fun that is!

BDS/ADS: The last sessions for this year will be on April 6th at the North Scituate Community House. De Feldman and Candace Morgenstern will sub for Ann Huntoon and teach a creative design.

Life Member: Sharon Gainey, Chair, reminded everyone to take flyers about the next event: Thursday, May 19 at the Rhode Island Yacht Club in Edgewood. Jim Donahue of the Preservation Society of Newport will give a presentation on the gardens of the Newport mansions. Tickets are \$35 per person. Invitations will be sent out in early April by Corresponding Secretary, Lisa Pollack. Meal choices are: lasagna and salad; chicken Francaise with rice and salad; baked scrod with rice and salad; or vegetarian, Chef's Choice. Reservations and payment must be received by May 9. LMG is giving out a \$4,000 scholarship this year, and the winner's mother is a Gentian member. (Checks to RIFGC –LMG should be sent to Lisa Pollack at 60 Wild Acres Road, North Attleboro, MA 02760. She may be contacted at 774-643-6188 or lbpollack@gmail.com)

NEWS: Editor Blakely Szosz said that she'd like to include more President's Reports in future issues in "Spotlight on a Club" pieces. The June/July/August issue has a May 1 deadline for submission. Blakely encouraged all to include information on their upcoming, summer, and early September events so that all events are included.

Marnie Sandham encouraged clubs to send her information about their events so that it could be broadcast to all by email.

Website: Adelaide Clifford posts information to the site upon receipt.

Youth: Chair Sue Talbot thanked clubs for submitting caterpillar egg cartons and butterfly masks to the February flower show. They were colorful and charming!

Cathy Moore still has some masks and asked that clubs please pick them up from her.

Announcements:

Betty Ann Taylor announced that Quononoquott is having a plant sale on May 14 at Fort Getty. There are flyers available.

Marnie Sandham reported that she had completed the "Million Gardens" registration of her own garden for the NGC President's Project. She found it very easy to do.

There was a brief discussion of winter moths, black flies, and gypsy moths.

Cathy Moore reminded everyone to check the Presidents' boxes for flyers and dues forms.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Pollack, Acting Recording Secretary