

Minutes of RIFGC Board Meeting
June 2, 2016

The meeting was called to order at the Roger Williams Park Casino at 10:16 am by President Cathy Moore.

Recording Secretary Lisa Pollack called the roll. 14 Clubs were represented.

Treasurer Bernie Larivee presented his report for March 1, 2016 to April 30, 2016.

Checking balance on 3/1/2016:	\$46,854.47
Deposits:	1,306.00
Cash disbursements:	<u>5,906.94</u>
Checking balance on 4/30:	\$42,307.53
CD and money market balance on 4/30:	<u>78,396.60</u>
Total balance of accounts on 4/30/2016:	\$120,704.13

Committee Reports:

Annual Meeting and Luncheon: De Feldman, Chair, noted that she'd had wonderful feedback on the meal and the program.

Life Member: Cathy Moore announced that the newest scholarship winner, Joseph Loffredo, introduced at the May 19 meeting, was thrilled to learn that day that he was also a NGC scholarship award winner, earning a total of \$8,000 for the upcoming academic year.

De Feldman, Vice-Chair, shared a Save the Date message with the group for the next LMG event: Thursday, August 18, 2016 at the Agawam Hunt Club in Rumford. The cash bar will open at 11:30 am and the luncheon will start at 12:00 noon. Garden club mystery writer, Neal Sanders will be our speaker. Entrée choices will be chicken picatta or salmon. Cost per person is \$35. Reservations may be made with Lisa Pollack. Flyers will be distributed by email and invitations will be sent out in early July. Please note, this event is open to ALL who are interested. (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 Reservations and payment must be received by August 4.)

Bee Gap: Marnie Sandham, Chair, said that it will soon be time to put out the leafcutter bees. She reminded us that www.crownbees.com gives a 5% discount if you note RIFGC on the order; further, 2% goes to RIFGC. Marnie has three houses out and is finding that bamboo reeds are working better than routed out blocks. Marnie has started a blog for monarch butterflies; is trying not to cut down everything that looks like a weed; and is trying to eliminate grass in her yard.

Cathy Moore brought back 700 packs of neonicotinoid-free wildflower seeds from the NCG convention.

Blue Star: Sandi Tinyk reported that the Barrington-Hameho star that was installed on Memorial Day, despite the rain that cancelled the parade.

Education Day: Sandi Tinyk, Chair, announced that the next free education day will be held on WEDNESDAY, November 2 at the RWP Botanical Center. The program will start at 10:00 am.

Flower Show Schools: Sue Redden, Chair, announced that the MA Symposium will be held October 18-20 in Milford, MA. Featured presentations will be presented by Mary Huntoon and Darlene Newell.

Garden Therapy: Rochelle Kieron, Chair, shared ideas for ways of extending summer colors – including pressed flower art, candles with flowers, and silvered ferns. She passed around Everlasting Floral Gifts, one of many such floral craft books that exist.

Habitat for Humanity: Cathy Moore reported that Karen Kestenberg worked tirelessly last week in Bristol, leading the planting at the Bristol house last week. She especially cited the help of Bristol Garden Club and the efforts by Bernie Larivee. Photos will be available on the website.

Cathy said that over the summer Clubs will receive information regarding fundraising for Habitat for Humanity since funds are now depleted. She is hoping that there will be a potluck luncheon after the September 29 RIFGC meeting. Plans are still in process. (This is a week later than usual, due to the Fall Board meeting for NGC the week before.)

BDS/ADS: Cathy Moore announced that there will be four workshops again next year. Dates and registration information will be distributed later in the summer.

President's Project: Cathy Moore reported that plans for the Garden of Hope at South County Hospital are proceeding slowly and that the location has now been switched on the campus.

NEWS: Editor Blakely Szosz said that the summer issue will go out in the next several weeks. Blakely asked all contributors who send information to her to please check in again with her if you do not receive a confirmation that she's received your email.

Website: Adelaide Clifford asked that photos sent to her should come as "Actual Size" jpegs.

(There followed a lengthy discussion about how and when and whether to post photos of people on the website, in the NEWS, or in other publicity and the use of signed releases.)

Reminder re. websites:

RIFGC site is www.rigardenclubs.org Password is flowers

NGC site is www.gardenclub.org Password is flight

President Cathy Moore reported that she'd just returned from last week's National Convention in Grand Rapids, MI. She learned a lot about mosquitoes, ticks, pollinators, Habitat for Humanity, and brought back lots of flyers. She described an excellent program delivered by Doug Tollamy of Pennsylvania that included statistics about what kinds of trees bring what kind and how many insects and birds, interspersed with a slide show of his magnificent bird and insect.

Cathy reminded us that the NGC conventions are open to all.

Cathy also reminded us that the NER Annual meeting will be held October 17-18 in Milford, MA, immediately preceding the Symposium. Catherine Felton will present "A Journey Through the World of Daffodils." Members are especially encouraged to attend the NER Meeting to show their support of our own Vera Bowen who is the current Director.

Cathy Moore distributed NGC awards that she brought from the Convention. National awards were given to Gentian, Sogkontate, Barrington, and Hameho.

Treasurer Bernie Larivee handed out checks for Community Project Awards to Hameho and Gentian.

Bernie announced that proceeds of the RI Flower Show raffle came to \$3,450 (after expenses). 1725 tickets were sold and participating clubs received checks for \$0.57 per ticket sold.

Announcements:

A memorial service for Maureen Colton (former RIFGC president; former NER director; flower judge) will be held at the Plum Beach Club on Wednesday, July 6, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Betty Ann Taylor announced that Cathy Moore, Blakely Szosz, Deb Ort, Sue Redden, and Vera Bowen had spoken at Quononoquott's meeting about what RIFGC, NER, and NGC have to offer. The program is available to all clubs.

Swiss Village Farm in Newport has its annual Open Day scheduled for Saturday, June 11.

Edgewood has archived 85 years' worth of memorabilia and gotten them down to a manageable collection. If your club would like to talk through the process they used, please feel free to contact Sheryl McGoodkin at sherylmcgookin@gmail.com

Angle Tree announced that their kickoff meeting will include a presentation by the Boston MFA, "The Art in Bloom Road Show." This will be on the morning of Thursday, September 15 with the program beginning at 10:30 am. Cost per person is \$5.

Quononoquott Garden Club gave plants left after their plant sale to Vera Bowen for use at the three prisons. Vera was very grateful.

Vera Bowen is looking for volunteers to help on Tuesdays at the Women's prison in Cranston. Potential volunteers will need to be CORI'd.

The Newport Flower Show will take place June 24-26. There are still two designs available – hanging and niche.

Horticulture will be displayed in tents behind the mansion this year. Vera Bowen is looking for clerks for Thursday, June 23.

Tickets for Sunday, June 26 are available to garden club members at a discounted rate of two for the price of one.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Pollack, Recording Secretary