

**Minutes of RIFGC Board Meeting**  
**September 29, 2016**

The meeting was called to order in the Terrace Room at the Westerly Library at 10:15 am by President Cathy Moore.

Recording Secretary Lisa Pollack called the roll. 19 Clubs were represented.

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

Checking balance on 5/1/2016:	\$42,307.53
Deposits:	3,343.30
Cash disbursements:	<u>5,981.74</u>
Checking balance on 8/31:	\$39,669.09
CD and money market balance:	<u>65,292.23</u>
Total balance of accounts on 8/31:	\$104,961.32

First Vice President Blakely Szosz noted that the best way to reach her is through her mobile phone: 401-573-8824.

Second Vice President Deb Ort reported that Jim Donahue of the Newport Preservation is looking for individuals or clubs to decorate mantels in Marble House for Christmas.

President Cathy Moore was glad to have so many Club representatives at the meeting. She gave special thanks to Gardeners of Westerly for helping her set up and for baking desserts.

Cathy attended the National Fall Board meeting last week in Maine where there were diverse talks on topics such as how to help with environmental issues and conducting tree counts. The Million Pollinators projects is continuing and NGC will be giving packs of seed to Bee Gap and to club Presidents.

Cathy reminded us that all RIFGC meetings will take place at the Roger Williams Park Casino, unless otherwise announced. Coffee and social time is at 9:30 and the meetings begin at 10:00 am.

Dates for future meetings are October 27; December 1 (this meeting will be followed by a light reception and possibly some entertainment); January 26; **February 23 (please note, this meeting is being added since there will be no Flower Show this year)**; March 23; April 27 (Annual Meeting, Awards Luncheon and Officer Installation); and **either** May 25 or June 1 (tbd).

**Committee Reports:**

**Annual Meeting and Luncheon:** De Feldman, Chair, announced the April 27, 2017 date and location at the Quidnessett Country Club. The speaker will be **Thelma Shoneman, presenting “Floral Designs Inspired by Fabulous Gardens.”**

Cost per person is \$37. Reservations may be made with Lisa Pollack at all RIFGC meetings through March. Flyers were available and will be posted to the website and distributed by email by Marnie Sandham.

**Life Member:** De Feldman announced that the August event had been cancelled due to lack of support. She reminded us that there was a change to the bylaws at the May meeting and that, going forward, there will only be one event per year.

The next event is scheduled for July 27, 2017 at the Dunes Club.

**Awards:** Holly Lippert announced that she is looking at dates on which to hold a workshop about awards. She is also available to speak at club meetings.

Program Books are due at the October meeting.

Deadlines for award applications are as follows:

NGC – December 15, 2016

Publicity Press Books – January 26, 2017

RIFGC – February 15, 2017

NER – September 1, 2017

**Bee Gap:** Marnie Sandham, Chair, will bring her bamboo tubes to the October meeting. Now is the perfect time to harvest seeds for next year.

**Blue Star:** Candace Morgenstern, Chair, announced that she is working with Jan Marcello of Chatham Village, planning an installation on Memorial Day, 2017.

Cathy Moore pointed out that this is an ideal project for an RIFGC community service grant and urged others to consider a Blue Star. Grant forms are available on the website.

**Education Day:** Lisa Pollack 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. There are four workshops scheduled:

**10:00 Warren Leach – “Beyond Blooms: Creative Design with Color, Structure and Seasonal Senescence”**

**11:15 Neal Sanders – “Gardening Is Murder” and “Gardening Is a Mystery”**

**12:15-12:45 LUNCH -- \$15.00 per boxed lunch. MUST be pre-ordered and pre-paid.**

**1:00 Barbara Blossom – “Four of the 12 Days of Christmas”**

**2:15 Barbara Blossom – “Leaf Manipulation”**

Flyers were available and will be posted to the website and distributed by email by Marnie Sandham.

**Flower Shows and Flower Schools:** Sue Redden, Chair, reported that ten RIFGC members will be attending the MA Symposium October 18-20 in Milford, MA. Featured presentations will be given by Mary Huntoon and Darlene Newell.

Barrington Garden Club will be presenting “A Blithewold Flower Show” April 7-9, 2017.

Cathy Moore reported that Maury Ryan has sold the Flower Show to the Home Show, which usually takes place in March. In order to regroup, the Judges Council is taking 2017 off. It is possible that there might be an RIFGC flower show in the future. Since the Flower Show has been our biggest fundraiser, with earnings mostly used for our operating expenses, it’s important to come up with something that raises big money and might include more of the general membership since not all consider themselves designers. Several suggestions were made and will be discussed further.

**Garden Therapy:** Rochelle Kieron, Chair, shared a tale of her mother’s Mr. Lincoln rose bush which is now blooming in her own garden. Since gardens make us happy, gardening is therapy!

**Habitat for Humanity:** Cathy Moore reported that there are no new homes planned since we have no funds at this point. It’s possible that in the future we may only do one house per year, not two. She reminded us that we can only use the interest from the CDs and bonds, not the principal, for RIFGC projects.

It was suggested that requests for volunteers to work on the plantings be posted on the web or that a phone tree be started so that more people can be involved.

**Horticulture and Environment:** Linda Alves, Chair, reminded us that Fall is a great time to share and separate our perennials, as well as to purchase and plant bulbs.

Linda discussed gypsy moths and suggested several different methods for dealing with them. (These will be described in the next issue of the NEWS.)

**Judges' Council/BDS/ADS:** Vicki Iannuccillo reported that the first session of BDS was last week in Barrington, led by Kathy Thomas. This year there are only 25 per class. The next class, to be led by Sue Redden on November 30, is full. If interested in a vacant spot for the January 25 or March 29 sessions, please contact Linda Kirkpatrick or Marj DeAngelis.

Vicki announced the premier of the Ruth Anderson Series. Ruth bequeathed money to be used for education. This series will be similar to the Ruth Wallach programs in Massachusetts, and will alternate years with that series. The inaugural presentation in the Ruth Anderson Series will feature **Natasha Lisitsa and Daniel Schultz, wife-and-husband floral artists of Waterlily Pond Studio in San Francisco**. The presentation will take place on Thursday, June 8, 2017 at 10:00 am at St. Andrews School of Performing Arts in Barrington, RI. Tickets are \$15 each until April 1. After April 1, tickets will be \$20. Only 300 seats are available. Tickets may be purchased by contacting Adelaide Clifford at 401-245-0588. Checks should be made out to "RA Fund."

**NER:** Vera Bowen, Director, encouraged members to attend the NER Annual Meeting being held October 17-18 in Milford, MA. Catherine Felton will present "A Journey Through the World of Daffodils." Vera says this is an especially important meeting as attendees will vote on keeping our region alive after NGC rescinded the eight regions. In addition, Adelaide Clifford will be honored for being the NGC member of the year.

Cathy Moore reminded us that the Symposium will follow immediately after, from October 18-20. She described it as being like ADS on a bigger scale, with lots to learn.

**NEWS:** Editor Blakely Szosz said that any items for the next issue should be sent to her immediately.

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

Reminder re. websites:

RIFGC site is [www.rigardenclubs.org](http://www.rigardenclubs.org) Password is flowers

NGC site is [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) Password is flight

**Youth:** Sue Talbott, Chair, announced the upcoming contests concerning pollinators; keeping the planet green; recycling; preventing forest fires. There are differing formats and age groups for the contests, including sculpture; poetry; essay; poster. All entries are due to Sue by January 26, 2017. Please see the NGC website for further details or contact Sue Talbott for more information.

#### **Announcements:**

Portsmouth will be holding a giant yard sale on Saturday, October 1 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at Aquidneck Christian Academy at 324 East Main Road.

Mary Sunderlin, former President of Wantaknowhow, introduced new President Sandy Fisher.

Anne Richardson of South County, announced their house tour of six homes to take place on December 3 in Saunderstown.

Lisa Pollack announced she's taking orders and payment for Vision of Beauty 2017 calendars until November 2. Calendars feature an entry by Sue Redden and are available for \$8.00 each. Contact Lisa ([lbpollack@gmail.com](mailto:lbpollack@gmail.com) or 774-643-6188) for more information.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am, at which point attendees shared a luncheon provided by Cathy Moore and the Gardeners of Westerly, after which some went for a self-guided walking tour of Wilcox Park.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Pollack, Recording Secretary