

Minutes of RIFGC Meeting
January 23, 2014

The meeting was called to order at the Roger Williams Park Casino at 10:05 am by President pro tem, Cathy Moore, in the absence of President Sandi Tinyk. Sixteen Clubs were represented. New President, Pam Bishop of Bristol, and new Vice President of Plum Beach Garden Club, Donna Dufault, were introduced.

There being no corrections to the Minutes of the December 5 meeting, the Minutes were accepted as previously electronically distributed.

In the absence of Treasurer Bernie Larivee, no Treasurer's report was given.

President's Report: delivered by Cathy Moore for Sandi Tinyk

At last month's Board Meeting, Sandi announced that though Massachusetts had reached their goal of raising \$26,000 for Marathon Daffodils, they are continuing to accept donations for ongoing needs, including their decision to place 5,000 pots of blooming daffodils at the finish line for this year's event.

The NER newsletter, Northern Exposure, was issued January 1 and was passed on to all RIFGC presidents. Please remember to distribute this to all of your club members so that they will have a clear idea of all that is happening in the New England states.

Sandi was privileged to be asked to install the officers of Quononoquott Garden Club and would love to attend other Club meetings and events – by invitation, of course!

Vice President's Report: Cathy Moore reported that December's Holiday Luncheon had 60-65 attendees. The music provided by Wheeler School's guitar teacher was nice. It would be nice to have music again next year, but perhaps it will be something different.

Committee Reports:

Awards: Sue Redden, Chair, is collecting Publicity Press Books today – two copies are due for each submission.

RI State Awards are due to Sue by February 15. They may be mailed to her or sent electronically.

Nominations for the Sylvia Street Award, for the most creative design, are due to Lynne Merrill, Judge's Council Chair, by February 15. These may be designs in a Federation or NGC Show, or representing a Club. All that is needed is a 4x6 or 5x7 photo.

Nominations for the Joan F. Pesola Award, for the best traditional design, are also due to Lynne Merrill by February 15. 4x6 or 5x7 photos need to be submitted. The designs can even be a centerpiece for a refreshment table or a BDS arrangement, as well as something from a Show.

Design Study: Cathy Moore announced that the third Beginner Design Study session took place on January 15 in Jamestown. It was a creative design, and was well received. The last session will take place on Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at the Watch Hill Fire Station. Containers and plant materials will be provided. There are still 2-3 openings for the session.

Vicki Iannuccillo announced that Advanced Design Study will be on the same day as BDS. This is open to anyone who wants to join in, just contact Vicki. Members are also welcome to just watch the session. The group also covers horticulture, in season, to help attendees get an idea of what judges are looking for. It's a good learning experience for all involved.

Finance Committee: In Vera Bowen's absence, it was reported that the report will be given in April.

Flower Shows and Flower Schools: Sue Redden, Chair, reported that there is less than one month to go before show time! The Schedule was done by Cathy Moore. All Design and Artistic Crafts spots are filled. Marnie Sandham still needs 16 hostess spots filled. All of the judges have been invited by Vicki Iannuccillo. Priscilla DiMarco and Ann Huntoon are managing the staging. The Coping Stations will be open and providing lunch for workers Monday through Wednesday. The Youth Artistic Craft clock faces are due to Cathy Moore today. Annette Jarvis can be contacted with any questions or advice needed for matters concerning Artistic

Craft entries. Leonora Graves is the official photographer. Judy Hager and Sue Redden are in charge of Signage. Bernie Larivee is still looking for raffle basket items, especially liquor or gardening contributions.

Sue encouraged members to visit the show. She mentioned that there will be four invitational designs complementing the antique automobiles on display, which may be of particular interest to any men you can encourage to visit the show.

In lieu of a Horticulture report this month, Sue urged members to submit horticulture entries for the Show and shared a number of tips for successful horticulture entries.

Sue thanked all who have offered to help and those who will help to make the Show a success.

Sue will have information in March regarding the new Flower School in Connecticut.

Good Standing date is now 12/31/2016.

Habitat for Humanity: Vera Bowen reported that 47 of the RIFGC Calendars had been sold. Two are being submitted for awards. There is one left for purchase. Thanks to those clubs that sent photos. Blakeley Szosz, Sandi Tinyk, and Vera Bowen picked the photos. We are hoping to produce a 2015 Calendar, also, and would like to encourage even more clubs and members to submit photos. We'd like to include more total photos, and perhaps have a photo montage.

Life Member: In the absence of BJ Stephens and Janice Panoff, Holly Lippert reminded us that the next event will be on Thursday, May 15, at Mount Hope Farm in the barn. Dr. Zsolt Orban will present a program on Macro-Photography of flowers

NEWS: Cathy Moore reported for Judy Hager. The deadline for the Presidents' Issue is February 1. Entries should be sent electronically to Judy Hager at jhager@cox.net.

Ad prices are as follows for the News: \$75 for a full page, \$45 for a half page, and \$25 for a quarter page. These prices have been lowered since we now have a fully electronic newsletter, with far fewer costs.

Marnie Sandham pointed out that Newsletters are an especially good place to get ideas for Club programs. She also encouraged Presidents to get their club members to open and read the KIT that was just sent out. She said she prints out copies to give to all her members who do not use e-mail.

Lisa Pollack said that in the Angle Tree Club they have e-mail buddies assigned to those without computers and they are responsible for printing out copies for their buddies. That way the cost does not become prohibitive for the Club or any one individual.

Ways and Means: Lisa Pollack reported that 60 calendars were ordered and sold, at a price of \$4.90 each. She hopes the order will be taken earlier this Fall than last, and reminded members that the more ordered the less expensive each one becomes.

Website: Holly Lippert reports that the 2011 and 2012 News issues are on the website.

www.rigardenclubs.org User ID is member Password is flowers

Please send notices of events to Holly (rifgc.holly@gmail.com) so she can post them to the site, and to Marnie (rifgc.marnie@gmail.com) so she can send them as part of an e-mail blast.

The next meeting will be on March 27, at the Casino, beginning with social time at 9:30 am.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa B. Pollack,
Recording Secretary