

**Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**2021**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

President Sheryl McGookin presented outgoing RIFGC President Deb Ort with a thank you gift for her two years as RIFGC President 2019 to 2021. The gift was the RIFGC china cup and saucer.

Vice President Judy Gray called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM

Roll call was read by Recording Secretary, Linda Alves: **16 clubs present** and **12 clubs absent**

Minutes of the April 2021 board meeting were sent electronically; “minutes stand as approved”.

**Special guest: N/A**

**Treasurer’s Report:**  Paul Nunes - reported for the operating account:

**Beginning Balance, May 1, 2021**: **$ 23,007.59**

**Cash Receipts**

Member Club Dues 1531.00

TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS 1531.00

**Disbursements**

Awards Expenses19.04

Postage Treasurer 22.00

Annual Meeting expense 126.84

Storage 12 months 2370.12

Insurance D&O, Gen Liab, Inland Marine 1608.00

Miscellaneous RI Annual Report 30.00

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS 4176.00

**Ending balance, August 31, 2021 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**$ 20,362.59**

**President’s Report:** (read by Judy Gray in Sheryl’s absence) So great to see everyone in person! It feels like the business of summer hasn’t ended as we plow into the fall!

We are excited to be adding a few items to our Federation agenda; Wet Your Whistle Wednesday. (Judy will talk more about this) An Earth day program – similar to free Education day but with an earth day slant, possibly to be combined with Annual Luncheon, mini programs at each of the board meetings, and A-typical fundraisers - information to follow.

As many of you know, I have hosted small groups of standing committee chairs to inspire the spirit of working together on programs and events. They have produced great ideas and helpful suggestions. We have a wealth of knowledge, creativity and experience in this group. I would love to see us use this to work together on the Federation Agenda and ways in which to support all the garden clubs.

Starting with me! I have an amazing executive board this term; they have advised, helped and been part of every step in the 2021-22 term. Please know that you can approach any of them for help or information.

**Vice President’s Report:** Judy introduced herself, she is a member of Bayberry Garden Club, introduced the executive board and welcomed everyone. Judy stated how we were well represented at the Newport Flower Show. Judy explained the Wet your Whistle Wednesdays, (WWW) will be on zoom the 2nd Wednesday of the month 6:00 to 6:45 pm and will start in November and the topic discussed will be the insurance of garden clubs. Judy read the resignation letter from Elaine DiChiara; who will be missed.

**Recording Secretary: Linda Alves** requested anyone that had a report to please email information to her at [lalves2@cox.net](mailto:lalves2@cox.net) and Sheryl McGookin at [sherylmcgookin@gmail.com](mailto:sherylmcgookin@gmail.com) prior to the next board meeting.

**Corresponding Secretary: Kathy Bessette-** no report

**Standing Committee Chair Reports**

Annual Meeting: Allison Mercer/Ann Huntoon - no report

Arbor Day: Deb Ort reported; Trees give off oxygen that we need to breathe. Trees reduce the amount of storm water runoff, provide food, protection and are homes for many birds and mammals. Fall is an ideal time to plant trees. New root systems will begin to form before frost and establishes the tree in the ground for winter. Remove any coverings on the root balls before planting, mulching will protect around the newly planted trees leaving space between the trunk and mulch. The most overlooked fact when selecting a tree is the PH of the soil. You can buy a kit to test your soil or contact URI Master Gardener volunteers for testing sites at: 401-874-2900.

Awards: Cheryl Celeste/Kathleen Damiani – Cheryl stated: program books are due to awards chairpersons by October 28th. NEGC has no awards chairperson so no awards submitted. National Garden Club awards must be submitted by December 15th. Member Award of Honor is due to RIFGC chairs by January 1, 2022. RIFGC wards due to chairpersons by February 15, 2022.

All awards can be sent electronically except: program books and the Edith Fricker Award. Hard copies of club’s newsletters can be mailed. Any questions contact Kathleen or Cheryl at: [gardenclubqwards@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubqwards@gmail.com)

Community Involvement: Linda Alves/Debra McCartin; Linda introduced Debra McCartin – no report

Education Day: Vera Bowen – Education Day will be November 3rd, 2021 at the RWP Casino. It is free, bring a lunch/drink. See the October Newsletter for time and Speakers and an email blast forthcoming.

Environmental Concerns: Sarah Lee; “Every year Save the Bay takes part in the worldwide **International Coastal Cleanup.** During these 1.5-2hr cleanups, the trash doesn’t just get collected; it also gets itemized, counted, weighed and recorded. This gives us *hard evidence* as to what and who the biggest polluters are so that we can find ways to stop the polluting in the future. In this way, our small effort in Rhode Island can make a world of difference.”

For registration, waivers and other specifics click on the link below

<https://volunteer.savebay.org/need/>

or contact July Lewis- [jlewis@savebay.org](mailto:jlewis@savebay.org), 401-272-3540.

**Saturday, September 25th**

Point Judith/Camp Cronin- Narragansett

1399 Ocean Rd, Narragansett

1-3pm

Audubon Nature Center& Aquarium- Bristol

1401 Hope St, Bristol RI

8-10am

Salter Grove Memorial Park- Warwick

461 Narragansett Parkway, Warwick

9-11am

**Sunday, September 26th**

Sandy Point- Portsmouth

620 Sandy Point Ave Portsmouth

10-11:30

**Friday, October 1st**

Conimicut Point- Warwick

1 Point Ave, Warwick

9-11am

**Saturday, October 2nd**

Wilson Park ROW- North Kingston

parking lot Intrepid Dr., North Kingstown,

8-10am

Passeonkquis Cove- Warwick

76 Gaspee Point Dr, Warwick

10-11:30

Pollinators: Vera Bowen – no report

Birds: Sue Redden – no report

Earth Day Program – Sarah Lee will be in April 2022 – TBD

Finance Committee Chair**:** Blakely Szosz – no report

Flower Show Schools**:** Candace Morgenstern - Flower Show school Course II is April 12th  - 14th, 2022 at Garden Club Federation in Melford,  MA.  Judges Council: anyone interested in becoming a flower show judge it is 4 courses and no longer need to be taken in order.  Judge Council is chairing a Horticulture Show on June 2nd, 2022 at RIFGC meeting. Ruth Anderson was a wonderful floral designer and gave a gift to be used for education after Ruth past.

Historian**:** Kathy LaRiviere – no report

Horticulture: Marjorie DeAngelis – no report

Design Study: Linda Kirkpatrick/Marjorie DeAngelis – Design Study Group classes 2021-2022 will begin with the first workshop on October 20 at Portsmouth Friends Meeting House. It will be taught by De Feldman and Barbara Blossom and will present types of American Tradition Design. Second Class is November 17 in Jamestown. It will be presented by Cathy Moore, Candace Morgenstern, and Ann Huntoon and will be on Angular Designs, Multi-Rhythmic, and Parallel Designs respectively. Each class will cost $40 and $75 for two. Contact Linda Kirkpatrick 401-595-5955.

  Design Study will also have a Small Standard Flower show as their final class.

Judges Council: Ann Huntoon - Judge's Council will stage a Horticulture Show at the last RIFGC Board Meeting at Roger Williams Park Casino on June 2, 2022. Cathy Moore will chair this show. The Schedule should be completed within the next month. Now is the time to plant something in your garden that should bloom late May/early June.

 Life Member: Cathy Moore - We had a successful luncheon at the Dunes Club on Thursday September 9, 2021 with Julie Lapham as our speaker. Our net income was $2,482.26. We had more people in attendance than recent years. Thanks to Sandi Tinyk and her committee for all their efforts in the past years. Cathy Moore and her committee look forward to carrying on their fine work.

Life Member Scholarship: Marnie Sandham – the scholarship is for one year and the applicant is to major in climate, horticulture, landscape design, environmental science and/or other related subjects

This year’s applicant is Sydney Pezza Luther.

Newsletter: Sandra Jack/Ruby McGookin – Deadline is October 4th. Please send her pictures of new slate of officers to Sheryl if your club installed new board this past spring or summer.

Photography: Candace Morgenstern - Photography is a new classification from the National Garden Club and encourages all to take photos of their gardens and there will be a meeting with a workshop later in the year.

Programs: Sandi Tinyk – Mini programs at board meetings are to begin in October with small presentation each month.

Program Book: Sandy Tinyk/Vera Bowen – Program book on website and look for field trip book this spring.

Properties: - Interim Sheryl McGookin – Please let Sheryl know if you need to get into the storage unit.

Social Media: Blakely Szosz – If any garden club has an event, please message her on Face Book or send her an email [blakelydesign39@gmail.com](mailto:blakelydesign39@gmail.com) .

Ways & Means: Michael Seebeck /Blakely Szosz – No Report

Website: Kathy Thomas – No Report

Youth Programs: Amanda Nickerson Toste – The Smokey the Bear and Woodsy Owl is due January 2nd 2022. Youth Poetry and Photo Contest for school age children; elementary, middle and high school subject will be native plants and gardening. Amanda has her own gallery and excited to showcase their photos in the spring.

Old Business – None

New Business – Blakely Szosz – Save the Dates

Barrington Garden Club Garden Tour chaired by Blakely Szosz ‘Sharing our Gardens’ which will include a Small Standard Flower Show called ‘We are Having a Party!’ chaired by Sue Redden. June 21 is the cocktail party and opening night reception and June 22 for the garden tour and flower show.

RIFGC State Flower Show at the RI Home and Garden Show in the Convention Center, Providence RI; titled: ‘Our World’ is taking place April 7-10th 2022. Those that previously signed up will hold their spot and Judy has information of the Class and Schedule and will email those that did sign up.

Deb Ort – Newport Polo event is $20.00 per person. Bring your own food, drinks, chairs and dogs. It is in August, 2022 more details to come.

Meeting adjourned at: 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda L. Alves

RIFGC Recording Secretary