Town & Country Garden Club Membership Meeting Minutes

Community/Senior Center

October 11, 2023

**Social gathering** with refreshments 5:30 to 6 pm

**Business meeting** 6:05-6:40. President Chris Lincoln welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the hostesses of the evening. She announced the October member birthdays as well. She reminded the membership that the approved budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year was attached to the September newsletter and called for any questions about it.

Chris also reminded members about the Awards Luncheon on October 25th. We will have 10 members in attendance. The Christmas party will be held at the Newtown Country Club again on December 6th. Gail Diminico is a country club member, so we are allowed to use the facility. She and Chris will meet with the owner or manager to make arrangements.

**Minutes** of the September general meeting were called for approval. Motion to accept was made by Jane Vouros, seconded by Arline Shanley and approved without correction.

**Treasurer** Teri Doern reported that our current bank balance is $6,806.67. She urged members to contact her with any questions.

**Ways and Means**: Peggy Fillion announced that this committee will meet at her house next Wednesday the 18th T 1 PM. New members are welcome as we always need new ideas and willing hands. Tonight’s raffle is free, so someone will win a Caraluzzi gift certificate.

**Membership**: Denise Rod announced that we currently have 36 members. She has available club brochures for any members who want to give them to neighbors, friends, etc. Denise then introduced our newest member, Joan Alexander, who spoke briefly about her life before Newtown and her avid interest in gardening. Welcome, Joan!

**Conservation:** Nancy Azzaro spoke about the importance of our Connecticut wetlands. She explained the various categories, both the saltwater and inland type. She also reminded us what the negative effects of unregulated use and abuse of wetlands can have on our environment. The good news is that our state has a long history of protecting its wetlands.

**Horticulture**: Elaine Sullivan distributed an information sheet “Six Reasons to Mulch Your Garden This Fall “. She reviewed a few reasons and the best materials and directed us to the website [www.davesgarden.com](http://www.davesgarden.com) for this and many other gardening topics. She also reminded us that this is a good time to force bulbs for indoor bloom.

**Xmas Tree**: Jane Vouros announced that Alexis Capaldo is chairing the holiday tree committee. Jane and Alexis need a few more committee members, so Jane passed around a sign-up sheet and explained the time line for the committee’s work.

**Civic**: Jane Sharpe told the group that all three traffic islands look wonderful. Planters’ Choice and Castle Hill Farm both donated some items for fall decorations. Jane will be contacting the Borough about the summer watering bill to make sure it was within the original estimate.

**Scarecrow**: Teri Doern explained that the scarecrow project is underway using all natural materials. The committee hopes to assemble it at Fairfield Hills on Saturday. She reminded us all to vote from October 26th to October 29th, one vote per person per day. Bring your ballot to the front door of the community center each day.

**Publicity**: Hillary Goldstein asked members to send her garden club photos that she can put on our Facebook page. She reviewed the way to access the page again, and encouraged us to “like” and “follow” the page, which will spread the word about our club through the Facebook community.

**Outreach**: In Gail’s absence, Denise reminded members that there is a current list of outreach opportunities on each of our tables.

The business meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

**Exhibits:** Peggy Townsend discussed the month’s parallel design arrangements. Barbara O’Connor critiqued the month’s perennial horticulture entries.

In preparation for next month’s free-style floral design assignment, Peggy showed us her sample design using vegetables in an artistic way with other plant material in a suitable container. She also gave us some tips on materials she uses to assemble arrangements, including U Glu Dashes for dry applications, florist tape for west applications, and floral tubes. She steered us to [www.saveoncrafts.com](http://www.saveoncrafts.com) for supplies.

**Program:** From 7 to 8 pm, Lorraine Ballato gave a presentation entitled, “Shrubs – The New Perennials”, which was open to the public, as always.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Kopesky, Recording Secretary