**Town & Country Garden Club Membership Meeting Minutes**

**Community/Senior Center**

**February 8, 2023**

**Social gathering** **with refreshments** **5:30-6:00 pm**

**Business meeting** **5:58-6:20 pm** with 22 members present)

**Membership** – Holly Walczak brought membership name tags in Denise Rod’s absence.

**Minutes:** Arline Shanley made a motion to approve the minutes from November 9, 2022 meeting and it was seconded by Joy Kopesky. The minutes were approved with no corrections.

**Miscellaneous:**

Chris Lincoln welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked the hostesses for the evening:

Holly Walczak, Jane Vouros, Donna Miklaszewski, Elaine Sullivan, and Gail Diminico

~ Chris welcomed back Jane Sharpe to the club and reported that Hillary Goldstein is also a new member but had a work conflict and was not able to be at this meeting.

- Open position for Publicity – Chris explained that this entailed writing the articles for the Newtown Bee for upcoming speakers. There will only be 2 more this year, so it might be a good opportunity for a member to try it out.

- There was information on the tables for CT Flower Show, February 2023: “Gateway to Springtime. Chris said she has been going for 9 years and there is so much there like the design displays, horticulture and a plethora of venders selling garden related goods. Peggy Townsend will enter the design competition, and Margareta will have a horticulture entry. Chris offered $14 tickets if they filled out the form and gave it to her by the night as the deadline was the 10th, otherwise tickets will be $20at the door.

-The Bethel Garden Club has invited neighboring clubs to their Gardening Series talks at the Bethel Library.

March 1 - Gardening for a Healthier Planet

March 29 - Power Equipment for Gardeners

April 10 – Fabulous Shrubs for the Four Seasons Garden

**-** Announced Birthdays: from December until the end of February

**Treasurer’s Report** – Joy Kopesky

Current balance is $6298.74

Two expenditures were $242 for the Holiday Party and $120 for The Flower Workshop.

The workshop had 14 members participate, paying $15 each.  In addition to the fee, the cost to the club was $120.

**Committee Reports:**

- Conservation: Barbara McCann gave a report on The Connecticut Audubon Society for Nancy Azzaro who was not at the meeting. She spoke on [Bent of the River Audubon Center](http://bentoftheriver.audubon.org/?_gl=1*13h0ke7*_ga*MTM2NDgwNTQzLjE2NzYwNDM3NTE.*_ga_X2XNL2MWTT*MTY3NjA0Mzc1MC4xLjAuMTY3NjA0Mzc1Mi41OC4wLjA.), [Greenwich Audubon Center](http://greenwich.audubon.org/?_gl=1*13h0ke7*_ga*MTM2NDgwNTQzLjE2NzYwNDM3NTE.*_ga_X2XNL2MWTT*MTY3NjA0Mzc1MC4xLjAuMTY3NjA0Mzc1Mi41OC4wLjA.) and [Sharon Audubon Center](https://sharon.audubon.org/?_gl=1*13h0ke7*_ga*MTM2NDgwNTQzLjE2NzYwNDM3NTE.*_ga_X2XNL2MWTT*MTY3NjA0Mzc1MC4xLjAuMTY3NjA0Mzc1Mi41OC4wLjA.)

- Horticulture – Barbara O’Connor was not present.

Ways and Means – Peggy Fillion encouraged members to patronize our sponsors, Sal e Pepe restaurant, and Shakespeare’s Garden nursery and gift shop. She also had Christmas Angles from our Christmas tree for sale for $5.00.

Programs – Jan Gardner gave a brief description of upcoming speakers:

* March will be Karla Dalley talking about ways to provide food, nesting, and shelter for birds
* April will be Michele MacKinnon giving a talk on old fashion dahlias with tips on the most popular to cultivate
* May will be Lorraine Ballato giving helpful hints on getting hydrangeas to bloom

**Exhibits** – Artistic Designs: line and line mass designs

Exhibitors were Josie Schmidt, Barbara McCann, and Peggy Townsend -mass line design

Jane Vouros simple line design

Margareta Kotch also brought her mass line design from the Flower Workshop that still looked beautiful.

**6:20pm business meeting was adjourned**

Since there was time before our speaker arrived members socialized for about 15 minutes and then we gathered together to shared memories of Marianne Muskus, and we had a toast in her honor.

**7:00pm Program:** Randy Walker, President of the Watershed Association gave a presentation. He first explained exactly what water sheds are, and then described where they are in our town. He shared ways that the association is working to care for the Pootatuck River that supplies water to the aquafers in our town. He talked about what the Association is doing to raise awareness of water quality and supply issues. PWA advocates for sustainable land-use practices and supports groups such as Newtown Forest Association, Protect Our Pollinators, and the Town of Newtown commissions charged with protecting the land and water resources.

Respectfully submitted by Josie Schmidt for Judy Beers, Recording Secretary