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

**Community/Senior Center**

**April 12, 2023**

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

**Business meeting** **6:08-6:35 pm** with 16 members present)

**Minutes:** Jane Sharpe made a motion to approve the minutes from March 6 meeting and it was seconded by Emi Lydem. The minutes were approved with no corrections.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Joy Kopesky

Current balance is $6,121

Joy reminded members to get a tax-free form if they purchase something for the club.

She also announced that she would be the chairman of the Summer Party to be held at Jane Sharpe’s house, 62 Underhill Rd Sandy Hook on Sunday, July 16

**Miscellaneous:**

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

Jane Vouros, and Jan Gardner.

~ April Birthdays for Lynne Farah, Lina Williams, Elaine Sullivan, and Peggy Fillion were announced.

- There was information on the tables for the Field Trip to Elizabeth Park Rose Conservatory/Garden on June 28, and Arline would give further information later in the meeting.

- Up coming events were announced: Installation Dinner will be held on June 14 at Sal e Pepe, with more information to follow

- The Board approached the Borough about taking over the watering of the islands. We will keep you posted on the results.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Conservation**: Nancy Azzaro gave a report on Black Bears in Ct.

There were 165 bear sightings in Newtown last year, and bears are now awakening hungry from their winter hibernation.

We need to coexist with bears so manage your food, garbage, and you can add a little ammonia to the cans to deter the bears from your cans and remove all bird food, including hummingbird feeders, except for during winter months. Leave bears alone if you see them and allow space for the bear to have an escape route. Don’t go close to take a photo, If you see one never turn your back and run, but back away.

**Horticulture:** Barbara O’Connor gave her report on the newer organic fertilizers. Companies have made huge strides in organic weed and pest control. Barbara had handouts for members on this topic.

**Ways and Means** –Chris Lincoln, for Peggy Fillion announced that we would have a table for Earth Day held at the Middle School on April 22. We will have bee houses, bee string lights, plants, and cup bird feeders for sale that day. Loose the Litter Day runs the same day and members can clean up their own streets or get an assigned area from the Earth Day Committee that day.

We will also have a table at the Duck Race, with sigh up sheet at next month’s meeting.

Denise sold raffle tickets 1 for $ 2.00 or 3 for $5 to receive a $25 dollar gift card, won by Chris Lincoln at the end of the meeting.

**Outreach** - Gail Diminico was absent but left sheets with outreach ideas on the tables.

**Newsletter:** Josie just encouraged members to send in garden pictures by email or text. If texting she reminded members to add their name.

**Workshop** – Arline gave a summary and said that 13 members attended. She asked if members would be interested in another one, and members said that they would. Jane Vouros suggested that it might be a creative design next time. Arline said her team would work on it.

**Field trip details:** Elizabeth Park opened in 1897 and is home to the first public rose garden in the country in 1904. The Park is open 365 days of the year from dawn till dusk and is free to the public, with no admission fee. We will leave at 10 am on June 28 for the ride which is a little over an hour. We can tour the rose gardens and other gardens there too. The Pond House Café is located within the park for lunch.

**Exhibits** – Artistic Designs: mass designs

There was one design from Arline

**6:35 pm -** Emi Lydem made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Arline Shanley - business meeting was adjourned

**7:00pm Program:** Jan introduced Michelle MacKinnon who gave a talk on dahlias’ which she explained were her favorite flowers since she was a child, and she said was the gateway to gardening for her. She gave details on how to plant them successfully, and how to cut and display them. At the end of her presentation she raffled off 10 dahlia tubers.

Respectfully submitted by Josie Schmidt for Judy Beers, Recording Secretary