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

**Community/Senior Center**

**September 14, 2022**

6:05 pm Business meeting called to order by President Chris Lincoln with 25 members present.

Chris began the meeting with facts about Diana Johnson. Her memorial service will be

 October 8, at 11:00 am at the Congregational Church.

**Membership:** Denise said there were three new members, but they were not in attendance.

**Announcements:** Josie Schmidt will take notes for Judy Beers, recording secretary who was absent.

Chris thanked the hospitality committee: Jane V., Holly W., Lina W., Nancy A., and Mary Ellen W. for the refreshments.

The members were told that there were safety vests at the back table for everyone with a sheet to sign that you received one. Also, there will be 4 safety cones to use, and the captains will explain where they would be stored.

We will be able to continue using the storage unit at no charge for the next six months, but Chris is asking if any members have space to let the Board know, since the storage shed is not necessarily a permanent solution.

There was information on the front table about the slate of officers, new membership brochures, copies of the budget and information on Park and Rec programs that might interest gardeners.

The Awards Luncheon will be on October 26, 2022, at The Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville CT. We will have a table for our members. There are clubs there from around the state who are presented with awards from the Federation. There are also vendors and floral displays to see. The cost is $42 dollars which includes a luncheon choice of NY strip steak , salmon, chicken, or veggie pasta.

If you plan on attending please notify Chris before October 16, which is the deadline.

**Treasurer’s report**: Joy Kopesky

 Current Balance of $7.093.81

 The Borough will be reimbursing the club $400+ for the cones and safety vests for Islands

 and also, for $100 each for the two neighbors letting Island 2 workers use their water.

**Handbooks:** Barbara McCann, first vice president, put together a beautiful handbook which she distributed to the membership. She pointed out some of the features of the book for new members.

**Committee Reports:**

**Communications:** Josie Schmidt reminded members to send fall pictures for the newsletter and encouraged members to send in their bio to be included in the newsletter.

**Conservation**: Nancy Azzaro presented helpful reminders for water conservation during this drought.

* Shorter showers, low flow shower heads or repurpose bath water
* Don’t run the water for brushing teeth
* Run the dishwasher or washer only when full
* Water gardens early in the morning or in the evening
* Look for drought resistant plants for the future.

She got this information from Birds and Blooms magazine. https://www.birdsandblooms.com

**Horticulture**: Barbara O’Connor passed out the Connecticut Invasive Plant List from 2011 These are plants determined to be invasive or potentially invasive. The council is trying to balance the detrimental effect of invasives with agricultural and horticulture value. Barbara mentioned that Planters Choice had donated to the research on trying to develop sterile bayberry and burning bush plants.

**Civic**: Mary Ellen Weiner

 There will be a Scarecrow Contest sponsored by Parks and Rec. at Fairfield Hills, and she is looking for a committee to work on a Halloween display from our club. The displays will be up from October 3 – 24 and will be judged in November.

**Field Trip**: Arline Shanley

 Told of a nice note from the field trip to Bridge of Flowers in Shelborne, MA. The dahlia season will continue there from August through October if you are interested in seeing it.

Our next field trip will be Wednesday, September 28, 2022, to Innisfree Gardens in Millbrook NY.

Members can carpool. The trip is about a1 hr. drive. There are picnic tables and chairs available, and it was suggested that we bring picnic lunches instead of going to nearby restaurants.

**Ways and Means**: Peg Fillion

 Arline worked to set up our next fundraiser for October 19 at The Barnwood Grill. You will be able to go for either lunch or dinner that day, and a portion of the bill will go to the club. You will have a small coupon to show the servers that you are at the event for the club fundraiser. It is a “no work” way to earn money for the club. Please encourage your friends and relatives to attend and help support our club.

Peggy encouraged new members to consider joining the Ways and Means committee.

She also passed out horse chestnuts for interested members to plant. She said they grow quickly into beautiful trees.

**Programs**: Jan and Gail

 Jan gave a list of the programs for the year. There is a detailed overview of each program

 in the new handbook.

**6:35- Exhibits**

 Harvest – Design of your choice

Barbara O., Marianne M., and Arline each brought in a design entry. The designs were all awarded blue ribbons.

Horticulture – Late flowering perennial: 1 stem if large, 3 stems if small

Reminder to use clear or white vase with plastic wrap around stem to secure exhibit.

Barbara O. Josie S., Mariane M. and Arline brought horticulture specimens. All were judged as blue-ribbon entries.

**6:45 pm - Program**

 Gail introduced Andrea Candee. Andrea started out by giving us cold and flu prevention ideas and also what natural remedies that we could use if we got a cold or the flu. She then went into other common fruits, vegetables, and herbs we could use for natural and effective remedies for common ailments. After her presentation members were able to purchase her books or natural remedies.

After the meeting members gathered for a toast to Diana. We shared our memories together.

Respectfully submitted by Josie Schmidt for Judy Beers, Recording Secretary

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