Town & Country Garden Club Membership Meeting Minutes

Community/Senior Center

November 8, 2023

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

**Business meeting** 6:00-6:33. President Chris Lincoln welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the hostesses of the evening. She announced the November member birthdays as well. She reminded new members that our club has no meetings in December or January.

The Christmas party will be held at the Newtown Country Club on December 6th. Members and their guests will pay $25 each. Six kinds of appetizers instead of a sit-down dinner will allow attendees to socialize more freely. Members should get their sign-up sheet and money to treasurer Teri Doern no later than December 1st so we can give a head count to the chef.

**Minutes** of the October general meeting were called for approval. Motion to accept was made by Barbara O’Connor and seconded by Arline Shanley and approved unanimously without correction.

**Treasurer** Teri Doern reported that our current bank balance is $6,306.70. That balance will increase once the Borough reimburses us for fall expenses for the traffic islands.

Today Teri participated in a zoom meeting held by Federated Garden Clubs of CT for club treasurers. About 100 people attended the meeting virtually. Teri came away with useful information for our club’s financial matters.

**Ways and Means**: Peggy Fillion announced that the committee will meet at her house on Wednesday the 15th at 1 PM. The committee will vote on another fundraising lunch/dinner partnership with a local restaurant, most likely Sugo (formerly Figs) in Sandy Hook. This evening’s raffle will give away TWO gift certificates (for the price of one). Also, Peggy is selling the angels from our 2022 Holiday tree which commemorated the Sandy Hook School tragedy.

**Membership**: Denise Rod reminded members that club brochures are available for any members who want to give them to neighbors, friends, etc. Contact her or Gail Diminico with questions or prospects for new club members.

**Conservation:** Nancy Azzaro followed up last month’s wetlands report with an explanation of the comprehensive investigation recently completed regarding U. S. groundwater. As the report reminded us, water played a big part in building this country, and now it is being depleted at an alarming rate, thanks to overuse and unsatisfactory regulation. She displayed a map of high-risk areas in the United States and showed us that Connecticut isn’t currently one of them. Let’s keep it that way by conserving our water supply.

**Horticulture**: Elaine Sullivan built upon last month’s report to us by discussing the best practices for forcing indoor bubs over the winter, including the planting of quality bulbs in sterile pots and giving them the right amounts of cool temperatures and dark storage.

**Scarecrow**: Teri Doern announced that the TCGC scarecrow entry had won “most original” in the contest sponsored by Newtown’s Parks and Recreation Department. She listed the committee members and thanked them for their dedication to the project. It was suggested that the prize (a gift certificate) be raffled off among the committee members. All members present applauded Teri and her committee for their work and their win.

**Xmas Tree**: The committee will meet Friday at Hillary Goldstein’s home to prepare trimmings for this year’s tree. This year’s theme will be a celebration of Newtown, inspired by the pewter ornaments with Newtown scenes that several members own and will loan to the project. The tree will be assembled in the Newtown Community Center lobby the first weekend of December.

**Publicity**: Hillary Goldstein reminded members to spread the word about our club through the Facebook community by “liking” and “following” our upcoming activities and recent news.

The business meeting adjourned at 6:33 pm.

**Exhibits:** Margareta Kotch drew our attention to the handouts on each table called “Principles and Elements of Design” regarding floral arrangements. She reviewed each of the 6 principles briefly. Then Margareta and Barbara O’Connor critiqued this month’s member-created floral arrangements with special emphasis on the principles of design. Barbara O’Connor discussed this month’s horticulture entries, explaining the thinking behind each entry’s rating.

**Program:** From 7 to 8 pm, Felicia Millett gave a presentation entitled, “Pruning Woody Plants in the Landscape”, which was open to the public, as always.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Kopesky, Recording Secretary