

Plum Beach Garden Club Membership Meeting

April 9, 2019

President Marion Bartkiewicz welcomed members and guests and thanked our hostesses, Betsy Ray, Betsy Coghlin, Linda Hughes, Janet Fernie, Joan Ehrhardt and Nancy Beck. The centerpiece was made by Sue Shriner and will be available for the raffle.

Kathy Romeo made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 2018 meeting and was seconded by Elaine Lemieux. Membership voted to approve. Three guests were introduced, Andrea Sarrasin, Carole Semonian, and Patty Kern.

First VP Kathy Romeo asked for feedback on the proposed budget for 2019. She noted that the financial committee decided to remove the cost of the Holiday Party from the Program Committee Budget. We will use our raffle money and charge a fee for members who attend. The Club needs to be careful financially as we are committed to several costly projects. The Financial Committee is hoping to get cosponsors to share in the upkeep of the islands coming into Wickford. After concerns expressed about certain expenditures and some discussion, a motion was made by Donna Dufault to accept the budget, and Ellen Abell seconded the motion. Members voted to approve.

Kathy also reported on the latest information from the Federation. They are still raising money for the Hasbro Children's Hospital garden. They hope to donate \$5,000. PBGC has 8 members attending the April 25th Federation meeting and program to be held at the Quidnesset Country Club. Let Kathy know if you want to participate. The Life Membership event will be held this year at the Barrington Country Club on July 25th. More information to come. Sylvan Nursery is offering garden club members associated with the Federation a 10% discount. Blakely is trying to get this same discount from Central Nursery.

Treasurer Ellen Abell reported we have total assets amounting to \$13,632.53. This includes our CD at \$9,352 and \$4,280.53 in our checking account. She reminded members to use the tax exempt form.

Second VP Linda Hughes noted the change in the morning's program. We will instead have a demonstration of how to make a succulent wreath. She reminded us that our May meeting will be at the Nature Center in Bradford. After our meeting we will tour the aviaries and the garden.

Sharon Pickering reported we have 48 active members, 6 honorary, 2 associate and 2 on the waiting list.

Dunes Club Event

- Elaine Lemieux asked members to donate 6 inch clay pots to be used to make the centerpieces for the Dunes Club event.
- Ways and Means Chair Brenda Johnston thanked everyone for their work so far on the Dunes Club event. She stressed the importance of the raffle items because of the money we make from the purchase of raffle tickets.
- Sue Colby asked raffle teams to make available at the next meeting a photo of their raffle item so the staging committee has a rough idea of the space needed for display of the items at the Dunes Club. Each team will also need a brief description of the raffle item.

- Gail Stokes has placed the announcement on our website and Facebook page. Individual members can also share on their Facebook page. In addition, please mail to friends and or take to other club meetings. Betty Sue Reed is managing the distribution of posters and packets of invitations. A team of 5-6 individuals will be distributing to businesses in South County.
- Jane Brockway announced we already have close to 100 reservations for the event. We agreed that we cannot accept more than 300 reservations.

Nancy Beck shared some interesting facts about owls in RI. The 4 owls that do not migrate, include the Barred Owl, the Barn Owl, Eastern Screech Owl, and the Great Horned Owl. A Barred Owl has been spotted in Wickford. Also the hummingbirds are on their way back to RI. Recently spotted in the Philadelphia are.

Jane Brockway reported that there are 6 more orders for bricks. She is making a trip to the engravers on Wednesday the 10th because she has not been able to reach them by phone.

Linda Sollitto reminded members of the cleanup scheduled for OLP on Friday around 9.

Betsy Ray announced that members of the Design Committee will be entering the Garden Club Challenge at the Newport Flower Show, June 21-23. The theme this year is Audubon Artistic Adventures. Darlene Vincent has agreed to co-chair the Design Committee and will be working with Betsey on the Club's entry.

Donna Dufault thanked the members who volunteered to work on the Seed Program at the NK Library. The team included, Sue Colby, Sue Shriner, Nancy Beck, Andrea Sarrasin, and Cynthia Corbridge. On April 30 from 6:30 to 7:30 we will host, along with Tom Frawley, the reference librarian, a program entitled Here We Grow. This free program, open to everyone, will show adults and children the basics of planting seeds. Free seeds donated by Job Lot and the Master Gardener Program will be distributed, as well as various handouts on planting. An old card catalogue will be stocked with flower, vegetable and herb seeds that will be available to visitors to the library.

Old Business

Marion recently contacted Eve Clulow about the timeline for the renovation of OLP. She replied that she is moving along and will keep us in informed.

New Business

Marion announced that PBGC was represented at the RI Flower Show. Three members entered and each placed second in their category.

- Carol Gjelsvik -Education Display about saving pollinators
- Brenda Johnston-Botanical Arts, a handmade and embellished shoe
- Marion Bartkiewicz- Small Design Division

North Kingstown Council member, Stacey Elliot contacted Marion and has an interest in revitalizing Post Road. She hopes we are willing to share our expertise and resources.

Barbara Halavik asked for volunteers to help spread mulch at the NK Food Pantry next week.

