

Plum Beach Garden Club Membership Meeting

May 14, 2019

President Marion Bartkiewicz welcomed members and thanked our hostesses, Kathy Romeo, Donnalee Fronce, Sandi Bemenderfer, Marsha King and Diane Devine.

Ellen Abell made a motion to approve the April minutes, it was seconded by Kathy Romeo. Membership voted to approve.

Marion discussed the plans for our new magnetic nametags. They will be 3"x1 ½ ", will include first and last name with the first name being slightly larger. It will also include our beach plum logo. A sheet was sent around with all member names so each person could check spelling and write in what nickname was to be used. Cost would be between \$7 and \$7.50 plus shipping.

Treasure, Ellen Abell reported we have total assets of \$20, 743.50. This includes \$10, 675 collected so far from the Dunes Club ticket sales. More checks have yet to be deposited.

Jane Brockway announced that 7 more bricks were placed in OLP. Thanks to her husband and Bruce Dawson. Two new requests were received.

First VP, Kathy Romeo thanked those members who bought tickets to the annual Federation Luncheon held on April 25, 2019. Updates from the Federation:

- The Federation donated \$7,500 to the Hasbro Children's Hospital healing Garden.
- The RI Flower Show provided a great deal of publicity for the Federation and garden clubs throughout the state. Kathy highlighted the involvement of over 300 students in the set up and displays and that this year's competition included a youth category (5-18) in the flower design competition.
- Life membership event to be held on July 25th at the Barrington Country club. Tickets will be \$43.
- There will be a training beginning this summer for flower show judges. Specific information can be found on the Federation web site.

Kathy announced that Histwick will be donating \$1,000 towards the maintenance of the island gardens. We will be looking for other businesses to help us with the ongoing upkeep. We need to also identify other insured/bonded landscapers that would like to bid on this work. Ellen stated that this expense represents about 1/3 of our total budget for the year, so additional financial support is important.

2nd VP, Linda Hughes, noted the change in the morning's program. Due to the weather we could not go to the Born to Be Wild Nature Center and instead she would be making several potted gardens. The Center would love to host us at another time. She might try to organize a visit after the fundraiser. She reminded us of the July meeting which will be at the Baptist Church followed by a field trip to Robin Hollow Farm in North Kingstown.

Linda Sollitto invited members to tour her garden after the meeting. The spring flowers were at their best.

Committee/Project Reports

Dunes Club Update

Brenda confirmed that raffle items should be delivered the day before the event starting at 4pm. We would be able to arrive by 10:30am the day of the event.

Barbara Dawson reminded members to see Kathy Barrett to purchase raffle tickets, 25 for \$20. Members would receive the actual tickets the day of the event.

Elaine Lemieux brought one of the potted ivy centerpieces. They will be sold for \$30 at the event. A card with the price and an envelope for the money will be on each table. The centerpieces will be offered to guests first but if members were interested they could sign up today and those that did not sell would be available. Elaine would make additional centerpieces if needed.

A crisis team has been formed, and includes Martha Parks, Nancy Beck, and Janet Ferni. They will be available to help in anyway the day of the event.

Sheila Skiffington, for Sue Colby reminded members that the title and description for the raffle items are due today.

Betty Sue Reed thanked those members who distributed posters and invitations. It was suggested that we pull collect extra invitations and mark sold out on the posters.

Committee/Project Reports

Sharon Pickering reported there are currently 48 active members, 2 associate, 6 honorary, and 2 on the waiting list.

Barbara Dawson reported she submitted 5 grant applications to the Federation, including; the planting of the police department hillside, the nursing home project, OLP renovations, our website, and the URI scholarship program. No awards were received this year.

Sue Shriner spoke about the return of the hummingbirds and some of their unique characteristics. They live in Mexico in the winter and migrate north about 500 miles over the Gulf taking them about 18-22 hours. Mid May is mating season, they have 3 eggs about coffee bean size, the adults sleep upside down and feed on nectar and insects.

Carol Gjelsvik reminded us that 1/3 Of the worlds food supply depends on pollinators. Casey Farm pollinator garden still has lots of grass that needs weeding. Anyone can go and weed at any time.

Linda Sollitto thanked the large crew that came to the first monthly cleanup at OLP. The next cleanup will be this Friday at 9am. She thanked Sue and John Colby for spearheading the mulching effort. Ellen Grennan, Gail Stokes and Debra Hughes also participated. Hopedale Trucking donated the mulch and Linda thanked them for their generosity. She recently heard from the Chamber about a woman who would like to donate money for a bench in OLP. Members agreed this should wait until the renovation is completed. Marion was in touch with Eve Clulow and she is still waiting for permits for the building renovation. Linda Sollitto mentioned that OLP is now 20 years old and could use some updating. There will be up to \$10,000 available from the new owner for garden restoration.

Donna Dufault spoke about the seed program held on April 30th at the NK Library. There were 15 in attendance and they learned basic information on soil testing, seed growth, pollinators and plant care. Seed packets were taken by participants. Many more packets were taken by visitors to the Library. She thanked Sue Shriner and Nancy Beck for their work. Next year they would like to offer the workshop at the end of March.

Gail Stokes and Kathy Barrette discussed the use of Facebook for publicity and mentioned there are 126 users who are not PBGC members. Gail is currently trying to fix a glitch with the website. She suggested we have a hands on workshop for members on using the website. She would like to form a beta team to test the ways we can better use the feature designed for members. Ellen Abell and Jocelyn Metivier volunteered.

Betsy Coghlin thanked Sharon Pickering, Janet Ferni, Diana Geisler, and Jane Brockway for the cleanup assistance at Gilbert Stuart.

The Youth Committee will be meeting with teachers from the Fishing Cove School to plan for the next Pollinator lesson. Plants, which the students plant will be purchased from Blue Moon Nursery. Donnalee Fronce and Ellen Grennan will retire from the Youth Committee next year. The Club will be looking for new co- chairs for this Committee.

Marion read a thank you letter from Jane Kennedy at Casey Farm, thanking the Club for the daffodils planted across the road from the Farm. They were in full bloom during their annual Easter egg hunt.

Marion reminded members of some of the upcoming events which she listed in a recent email. Several members mentioned the spring concert at St. Luke's Church in East Greenwich on May 19.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Devine, Recording Secretary