

Club update from our president – October 2020

Hi everyone!

Happy Fall.... this weather is so wonderful! I hope you are getting outside, enjoying the foliage, and breathing in the fresh autumn air. Emily Bronte said, “ Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree.”

I'd like to begin by recognizing the Board for their dedication to the club during these extraordinary times. We met again last week in my backyard in warm clothing and blankets..... it was a chilly morning! However, despite the chill in the air, we had a very productive meeting, and I want to thank them for their continued support.

Club News.....

1. Sharon Pickering and I planned a small gathering in OLP with our prospective members. Marion Bartkiewicz, Barbara Dawson and Joanne McDermott joined us to talk with them about the club, and our activities. Because we are not having meetings right now, we suggested to them that they join our weeding sessions whenever they can. It will give them the opportunity to get a taste of the club. More importantly, it will give them the chance to get to know some of us. I know you will all help to make them feel welcome. My thanks to Sharon, Marion, Barbara and Joanne for helping make that a successful meeting.

2. Last week, we had an informal meeting with Eve Clulow, the new owner of the old Library. She met Linda Sollitto, Barbara Dawson and myself on site, and spent a good amount of time with us. She is hoping for construction to start next spring, and anticipates it will take 9 months. The garden is very high on her priority list, and she is looking forward to working with the club to restore it after the building's renovations are complete.

3. We have received two more donations! One from Joyce and Dan Cushman.....they received the Award of Excellence for their garden on Washington Street back in June. Joyce wrote a lovely note thanking us for all we do to beautify the town.

The other donation was made by Mary Blue Hewitt. She purchased 4 bricks, and then added a generous donation in her check. So very thoughtful of her.

4. Cynthia Corbridge made two suggestions after my last email, and the Board agreed with both:

If you decide to donate to the Food Pantry next month, please include a note informing them that you are a member of PBGC. That will insure that they know that we are still thinking of them during the upcoming holidays. The club will return to our tradition of matching your donations in December of 2021.

Cynthia also reminded me that the club had discussed dedicating the Federation Tree to Al Southwick. The Board agreed. So I will ask the Communication Team to start working on that over the winter, for a dedication next spring.

Thank you to Cynthia for her thoughtful suggestions.

5. A couple of thank your to members.....Barbara and Bruce Dawson polished the bench plaques in Updike Park after the town cleaned the benches. Wow! What an improvement! Thank you!

And.....fall cleanup at Gilbert Stuart was handled by Betsy Coghlin, Sharon Pickering, Marion Bartkiewicz and Sandy Secrest. Thank you ladies!

6. HistWick's latest newsletter sent via email on October 13th devoted half a page to thanking PBGC for our most recent accomplishments of the new Updike Park garden, and planting the Federation Tree at Wickford Middle. It was a beautiful write up, and I sent a thank you to them for it! I so appreciate their recognition of our club!

7. Federation News:

First.....Remember that we were collecting our loose change for National's Penny Pines Program all of last year? Well, the check from RIFGC to Penny Pines was in the amount of \$1,700! What a tribute to the clubs that belong to the Federation! And thank you to Marion, our past President, for encouraging our participation in that worthy program.

Secondly.... Federation is planning an Educational Day. Unfortunately it will need to be on Zoom this year. Details will follow re: the date, etc.

8. On Saturday, we will present our Award of Excellence to Harriet Powell for her dedication and hard work for pollinators! She and our own, Carol Gjelsvik, led the charge in establishing the Pollinator Garden at Casey Farm. You can read much more about Harriet, and her accomplishments on our website. A photo of her accepting her award will also be on Facebook.

That's all for now! Take care and stay well. Thinking of all of you.

