

Plum Beach Garden Club Meeting

July 9, 2019

Marion Bartkiewicz welcomed members and thanked our hostesses, Sandy Secrest, Ellen Grennan, Martha Parks, Carol Gjelsvik and Nancy Harrington.

Marcia King made a motion to accept the minutes as revised, it was seconded by Kathy Barrett. The membership voted to approve.

Reports:

Treasurer Ellen Abell reported that the profit from the Dunes Club event was \$9,863.51. Our balance right now is \$22,862.80.

Marion reported for Kathy Romeo, **1st VP**, that a nominating committee has been formed which includes, Kathy Romeo, Elaine Lemieux, and Sue Colby. Kathy wrote a letter to the membership asking them to let someone on the committee know if they are interested in filling either of the positions available for the next 2 year term. We need a **1st VP**, and a treasurer.

The Federation's website has been improved, the password is flowers. Any news to be included in the next Federation newsletter is due by August 18th. The Federation will be asking for each Garden Club to collect at least \$68 to contribute to their Penny Pine fundraiser which will be used to help restore burned forest areas.

Linda Hughes, **2nd VP**, asked members going to Robin Hollow Farm after the meeting to please organize car pools as there is not a lot of parking. We need to leave the farm by 12:30.

Brenda Johnston, **Ways and Means**, thanked members for the hard work that went into making the Dunes Club event such a success. It was very gratifying and she is so pleased that now so many people are aware of what it takes to organize such an event. She suggested that members send their comments about this year's event to her and any ideas for future events. Several members commented about how wonderful it is to work with the Dunes Club. Marion did send them a thank you note.

Marion reported for Sharon Pickering, **Membership**, that there is currently 48 active members, 2 associate and 6 honorary members. There are 2 on the waiting list.

Linda Sollitto, **Civic Beautification**, reported that the Anne Wallau Garden was planted with 25 new perennials. Sheila Skiffington, Brenda Johnston, and Marion Bartkiewicz joined Linda in updating this Garden which is 23 years old. The town now has the sprinkler system operating. She asked for volunteers for the weeding of Old Library Park this Friday starting at 8. The Art Festival is this Weekend.

Carol Gjelsvik, **Pollinator Project**, asked for help at the Casey Farm Pollinator Garden. You can go any time to weed. She reported that Harriet Powell, from the Groundwater Commission has taken back the leadership of this project. The weeding will be less in the future as the plants will reseed, filling in the field. Carol also reminded members of the pollinator sign that can be borrowed for any projects we may have related to pollination.

Gail Stokes reminded members of the 2 signs she has explaining the purchase of bricks and the story of the Club. They can be borrowed from her.

Marion congratulated our winners at the Newport Flower Show.

- Betsy Ray and Darlene Vincent -2nd place in the Garden Club Challenge. There was a picture of their entry in the Newport Newspaper.
- Brenda Johnston - 1st place in the Bird Cage Competition
- Debra Hughes - 1st place with her Cobweb Houseleek succulent plant

Marion announced that Karen Pizzaruso will be placing another order for name tags. Please contact her by July 18th if you want to order one.

Marion announced that Bill Thomas, a local veteran who lives near the Veterans Park across from the old town hall wants us to be aware that the Park may end up as a parking lot if the 7.5 million dollar referendum is passed for renovating the building. Sheila Skiffington clarified that the 7.5 million dollars is in addition to the 5 million that voters approved last year. The additional money would allow the town to renovate and expand the town hall. The expansion would require that the Veterans Park become a parking lot and a traffic light to be installed so employees and visitors could move safely between the town hall and the parking lot.

There is no August meeting, next meeting is September 10.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Devine, Recording Secretary