**Corrections=\*\*\*\***

**FAIRBANKS GARDEN CLUB EVENING MEETING 10/19/16**

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The evening meeting was attended by 29 members and 2 guests.

The business portion of the meeting was called to order at 6:15pm by co-president Annette Eddy. The first order of business was to welcome all members to the evening meeting and program. Theresa Carmody was welcomed as a new member and presented with a lovely plant. New member, Marie-Louise Kehoe not in attendance.

Annette E. asked if the minutes to the 9/21/16 meeting needed any corrections. No corrections needed—minutes accepted. Treasurers’ report accepted.

Annette E. gave a big thank you to all for filling in the preference sheets. At this point Annette E. opened discussion regarding the homemade sandwich issue. She thanked everyone for their incredible hard work and dedication to the club in trying to find a resolution to this issue. Annette E. stated that as of right now absolutely no homemade food is to be brought into the Endicott Estate per town manager, J. Kern. He stated that the issue is in the hands of the Selectmen and the town’s lawyer. Lisa Brayton, FGC member and former FGC president, asked that she/members speak to Selectmen to bring our case forward. She/members to possibly be put on the November 10, 2016 Selectmen meeting agenda. This date might not be possible but maybe Selectman J. MacDonald will ask Nancy Baker, Assist. Town Manager, to help the FGC get on the agenda. It was noted that usually at the Selectmen’s’ meeting there is a block of time for open discussion by the public. Lisa B. stated that all we want is to continue as we have in the past which is to prepare the luncheon foods. Charlotte Pollock to be the spokesman at Selectmen’s’ meeting. Also, it would be wonderful if as many members as possible show up in support at the meeting. At this point Annette E. stated that in the event that the decision is that the FGC cannot prepare the food we need to have a plan. She suggested that we charge members $3.00-$4.00 per lunch and have the club pay for any overage.

**Committees:**

Rose Favret, helping Carol Dixon, Garden Therapy/Horticulture/Monuments. There is a cleanup of the Fairbanks flower beds and herb garden scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 27th at 9:30am-11:30am with a rain date of Monday Oct. 31st. All are asked to participate and help put the flower beds and herb garden to sleep for the winter.

Annette O’Shea and Joan Hartzel Programs Committee Chairs were asked to highlight their committee. They each in turn spoke about how they go about selecting the program speakers. They attend the Elm Bank vendor fair where all the local vendors set up to explaining their programs. It is Annette’s and Joan’s responsibility to review and then select the speakers for our programs. This is challenging because they have to consider the cost to the club and that the topic will be of interest to the club members. The FGC usually has **\*\*\*\***4 programs a year and 1 program is a craft given by our members. Annette and Joan said that it is helpful to them when they get suggestions from club members about any speakers they have seen and also helpful when members suggest topics. Also, the Program Committee needs 2 people to help the coordinating of the Christmas luncheon and the May luncheon. Monies will need to be collected and menu selections kept track of. **\*\*\*\*** December 12, 2016 is set for the Christmas lunch at the Old Colonial Restaurant. Our November meeting will be an Arts and Crafts project for members to take home and the cost is $5.00 to members with the club picking up the rest.

Alice Ungethuem, Conservation Committee Chair, Alice stated that conservation is an extension of our club and to learn how to increase our knowledge on how best to help the environment. In the past we have had several committees geared to conservation. We had the “Pennies to Save the Trees Program”. Alice spoke about the tours that are being planned for the coming spring. Many of the surrounding clubs have wonderful and educational tours.

Marion Kirohn, Nominating Committee Chair, stated the FGC “We Need You’’ young blood is needed to step up to some of the responsibilities of the club.

Loretta Larraga, Website/yearbook Chair, gave out updated yearbook information to all the attendees of this meeting.

Jane Crandall, Corresponding Secretary, informed all that Dixie Reimold is very ill and that cards would be appreciated.

Carmella Kerrigan had a fall at home and cards would be appreciated.

At this time the business portion of the meeting adjourned. Refreshments at this time.

**Program:**

Joan H. introduced our speaker, Sandra Bonzagni, Educator, Acton Garden Club member. Ms. Bonzagni collaborates with the Acton Health Department and the Acton Schools on tick-borne disease education. She has won several awards for her presentation and power point talk on the subject of tick- borne diseases.

Sandra spoke about her personal experiences with Lyme disease. How hard it is to get the diseases caused by ticks recognized. There are multiple symptoms and not all health care providers are educated in the treatment of Lyme disease and the other associated diseases caused by ticks.

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If we have wildlife in our area we have ticks. Many towns do not allow the thinning of the deer herds which leads to more chances of tick-borne diseases in humans. Thinning the deer population has been proven to help reduce Lyme diseases. Towns set aside $60,000.00 per year for mosquito control but $0.00 for tick control. There is an unbelievable 300,000 new cases of Lyme disease each year. The best thing for people to do is to education. There is a lot of information on the subject at libraries.

Sandra went on to say that ticks like it wet and shady so it is important for us and gardeners to make sure our yards/gardens are trimmed back. It is important to check our pets because they can carry the ticks and also get the diseases themselves. Mice, birds and deer are the ticks’ host so it is important for us to also manage our surroundings by not having places for them to set up housekeeping.

She said that sadly it is very risky to walk your dogs or yourself in the woods off paths. Always make sure we use DEET spray as a repellant.

She spoke of the fact that it is incredibly wide-spread throughout the country and how Lyme disease is fast becoming a major public health issue. Lyme disease if very hard to diagnose and may times it goes undetected until the symptoms have become chronic. Lyme disease also mimics several very serious illnesses such as ALS, MS, and Alzheimer’s, ADHD and Parkinson’s.

Sandra shared tips with us on how to dress while doing yard work. That we should be covered up as much as possible and use DEET on our skin. When we remove our clothing, put them in the dryer first, then wash them. She shared how to remove a tick using tweezers. To protect our yards use tick tubes so that the mice, squirrels, etc. will bring the tick poison back to their nests and if your property abuts a wooded area to use 3 ft. of mulch between your yard and the wooded area. Another tip was to use bars of Irish Spring soap in our yards. The ground hogs etc. do not like the smell so they will not nest in your yard.

In closing Sandra said that tick- borne diseases are truly a public health problem that unfortunately will get worse so it is up to us to educate and prevent.

Ms. Bonzagni took many questions from our members at the end of her program and there were many informative handouts that she shared with us. It was a wonderful program enjoyed by all.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Rose Favret, Recording Secretary, Fairbanks Garden Club

**Addendum corrections: Christmas luncheon is on Wednesday Dec. 14, 2016**

**FGC has 5 programs a year and 1 craft program given by our members.*ERROR***

**FGC has 6 programs a year and a Dec. Christmas luncheon and a May Annual meeting and luncheon**