**FAIRBANKS GARDEN CLUB LUNCHEON MEETING OF 2/15/17**

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The Fairbanks Garden Club luncheon meeting of 2/15/17 gathered at 11:30am with 37 members and 1 guest in attendance. A wonderful luncheon was hosted by the February Hospitality Comm. and enjoyed by all. The beautiful centerpieces were provided by Jeannine Lathum. During lunch all members were very engaged in a lively social hour.

At 12:40pm co-president, Christine Page opened the business portion of the meeting.

**Item #1 50/50 Opportunities Drawing**

Christine P. mentioned to members about the December board vote to have a 50/50 opportunities drawing and how it works. Members can take chances with 50% of the collected funds going to the club and 50% of the collected funds going to the winner. (3 tickets for $5.00 is the cost of the tickets)

**Item #2 Term Limits of Chairs and Officers**

Christine P. stated to members that it is very important for the club to adhere to all the term limits stated in our by-laws. These term limits are 2 years with a possible 2 more years (if no one steps up) that being said, FGC has a number of Chair/Officer positions that will need to be filled. They are:

* Tours
* Hospitality
* Conservation
* Membership
* Corresponding Secretary
* Programs
* Co-president (Christine P. stated that she would stay on if no one steps up)
* Ways and Means
* Plant Sale

Anyone interested in any of these positions or would like more information about any position; please see members of FGC Nominating Comm., Marion Kirohn, Charlotte Pollock or Alice Ungethuem. It was stated by the board how important that all members pursue any of these openings. It is very important to the vitality of the club that new people step up to fill openings. FGC encourages mentoring of new chairs by past chairs.

Our most important issue at the moment is the Plant Sale Chair position. FGC plant sale is very essential to the club as our fundraiser so someone to head up this committee is needed. On February 22 at 1pm at the Endicott House there will be a plant sale meeting for all interested members. It is very important to have a large turnout at this meeting.

**Item #3 Speaker Sally Muspratte—program shade gardening**

In February, Charlotte P. attended a program at the West Roxbury Garden Club regarding shade gardening given by Sally Muspratte. Charlotte stated that the program was very informative and that the speaker was great and would like to see if FGC could get Sally to speak at FGC. It was noted that Sally is giving a workshop in March. At this time, the business portion of the meeting was adjourned.

Our program was introduced by Joan Hartzel, Co-chair Programs/Workshops. Joan introduced Ellen Donovan and Donald Gosselin, Educators. “Endicott Greenhouse – Programs & Gardens.”

Ellen Donovan, FGC member, moved to Dedham in 1990 and joined the Mother Brook Condos Landscape Comm. She joined the Endicott Greenhouse in 1998 and has been the Secretary of the Greenhouse Board since 2000. Ellen also managed the Avery School Plant program starting in 2000 and was later joined by Mary Devine-Betz, Kathy Lynch and Janet Knight, all FGC members. Don Gosselin retired in 2000 and started as a volunteer with RSVP tutoring FSL students at Riverdale School. After attending a meeting at the Dedham Retired Men’s Club, Don went to the greenhouse to ask about renting bench space. There Don met John Anderson who asked if he would be interested in the school plant program that he mentored. Don’s great love for plants and children proved to be a perfect match. Don has been doing the school program for 16 years as well as many other greenhouse activities.

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Ellen and Don began the program by giving a very detailed history about the greenhouse. Did you know that the greenhouse is estimated to be in the exact center of Dedham? And that in 1917 potatoes were grown there to help feed the troops. Katherine Endicott was an avid gardener and had beautiful gardens at the estate. When Katherine died she willed the estate to the town of Dedham for use by the people of Dedham for educational, civic, social and recreational use. The estate was offered to the state as a governor’s mansion but the state did not want it. In1967 the greenhouse went into limbo, with no one knowing what to do with it. In 1977 a group formed to find a use for the greenhouse. In 1981 Jane Crandall (FGC member) and her husband Doug, were hired to take on the task of bringing the greenhouse and programs into development while adhering to Katherine Endicott’s vision for the greenhouse being “educational, civic, social and recreational opportunities for the citizens of Dedham through the utilization of the horticultural resources of the Endicott greenhouse and gardens.” To sustain this momentum, Judy Massey, (FGC) developed many programs for the school children of Dedham. These programs continue to this day. The Dedham Retired Men’s Club volunteers help maintain the greenhouse and grow and sell all the plants which allow the greenhouse to be self-sustaining. The greenhouse partners with groups such as the Fruitful Offerings Program which helps the Dedham Food Pantry by offering food plants for people to grow. The school programs have proven to be very successful with the children throughout the elementary grades. The greenhouse offers garden plots and areas to starts seeds. This is a great way for people to socialize, make friends, swap plants, and share their love of plants.

The greenhouse welcomes all who would like to volunteer. There is always something that can be done to help around the greenhouse. Ellen and Don extended an open invitation to visit the greenhouse and as we looked at the wonderful pictures Ellen and Don brought with them we could see that Katherine’s vision for her greenhouse has been followed with great caring, love, and respect by the wonderful volunteers of the greenhouse.

Many thanks to Ellen Donovan and Don Gosselin for this very wonderful and informative program.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Rose M. Favret, FGC Recording Secretary