**MINUTES**

The Fairbanks Garden Club

Club Meeting, November 14, 2018

Forty-three members and one guest attended the November 14 meeting of the Fairbanks Garden Club, held at Endicott House, Dedham.

**Co-President, Charlotte Pollock** welcomed five new members recently admitted to the club as a result of the Board’s decision to increase club membership from 50 to 55. They will be introduced individually later in the meeting. Charlotte also reminded members that checks and menu choices for the Holiday Luncheon would be collected during the meeting; that a sign-up sheet was available for participation in the Holiday Wreath Decorating event on November 29, 9:30 a.m. at the Endicott Community Greenhouse; and that donations for the Dedham Food Pantry should be left in the hallway for member Carol Dixon who will deliver them to the Pantry. Charlotte also reported briefly on the October 24 Fall Meeting of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, of which our club is a member – (see page 5 of our Yearbook to view our club’s membership of the Metro District division of the Federation). Charlotte was struck particularly by speaker Claudia Thompson, founder and director of Grow Native Massachusetts who made the case for why native plants are important: native plants are good for insects and insects are good for birds. Claudia made the point that our small, individual gardens are very important in that ecosystem. Claudia’s organization's website, [grownativemass.org](http://grownativemass.org/), has information on native plants and invasive plants, on why native plants are good and non-natives bad for our wildlife; the site also gives access to free videos by a variety of experts as well as listing nurseries and places to get native plants and seeds.  Finally, in the absence of Recording Secretary, Judy Massey, Charlotte presented the September and October club meeting minutes to the members present. Both were accepted as submitted.

**Co-President, Marion Kirohn**, confirmed that the club is still planning a 60th Anniversary celebration in the Fall or Spring of 2020. Also, the Board continues to work on members’ committee Preference List which has proved very useful. As outstanding preference sheets come in, member preferences will be sent to all Board members.

**Recording Secretary**: in the absence of Judy Massey, today’s minutes will be taken by Maeve McHenry.

**Corresponding Secretary**: Marilyn Gosselin sent thank you notes to Roche Brothers, Star Market and Michaels for donations towards our pumpkin patch; and to Paul McMurtry for two movie pass donations. She also sent a note of condolence to Judy Raymond. Marilyn will send a $50 check to Fr. Josoma for letting the club use St. Susanna’s church at short notice for our October club meeting. She also sent a get well greeting to new member Doris Hazerjian who is doing better after an illness.

**Lisa Brayton’s Eco-Minute:** Having distributed an illustrated copy of Waste Management’s ‘Most Common (Recycling) Contaminants’ during the luncheon, Lisa used her eco-minute to go through the list of contaminants and to elaborate on what should and should not be recycled. She answered members’ questions.

**Membership:** Saroj Joshi introduced five new members to the club: Carla E. Bennett, Kathie Merageas, Beth Quarles, Jodi C. Rand and Mary Walsh. Saroj spoke briefly and warmly about each new member before inviting her to the podium to receive the welcome gift of a potted plant, and new members expressed their pleasure at being accepted into the club.

**Ways and Means**: In the absence of Jeanette Evans, Janet Holmes outlined the club’s ‘Garden of Trees’ project; a club fundraiser whose proceeds will go towards the club’s college scholarship fund. Ten 3- or 4-foot, green or white artificial Christmas trees will be decorated by members, and raffled off in the Dedham Community Cinema during the Dedham Stroll on November 30. Each tree will have a different theme, and theme-related gifts will accompany each tree. Tickets will cost $1 each or $5 for a book of 6 tickets. Jeanette asked for donations of ‘gently used’ theme- related gifts, and for volunteers to help set up the trees on November 29 at 5:30 p.m. and sell tickets on November 30.

Also in Jeanette Evans’ absence, Annette Eddy reported $140 worth of Christmas cards already sold; more are still available for sale. She also reported on the beautiful tree decorated by club members as our contribution to the Festival of Trees held at Elmbank in Wellesley, November 23-December 9 – a wonderful family festival which she recommended highly as worth a visit. Loretta Larraga has posted pictures of our tree installation on our website. Annette thanked everyone who volunteered for this project.

**Treasurers**: Mary Devine-Bentz reported that the club has $13,921 in the bank with no outstanding bills. The club is very healthy financially, but is urgently looking for treasurer trainees from among the membership.

**Hospitality**: Judy Raymond made an urgent plea for more help for her Hospitality Committee. The Committee desperately needs more people.

**Plant Sale**: Jeannine Lathum reported on several plant-sale projects she and her group is working on right now and for which she would love lots more volunteer helpers: garden signs, nesting blocks for powerhouse ‘Mason’ bees - (fifteen times more effective pollinators than honey bees); bird houses to paint; and garden art. She brought lots of donated wood blocks, demonstrated what was involved, and asked that as many people as possible bring home some wood to work on, or join the garden club group which meets on Thursdays at *Traditions* where they have a lot of fun doing garden art.

Respectfully submitted, December 3, 2018

Maeve McHenry