

KENNEBEC VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 7, 2016

The annual meeting was called to order by President, Sharon Ann Paradis, at 12:00 noon at the Augusta Country Club. There were 31 members present.

The Pledge of Allegiance, Gardener's Collect, and Conservation Pledge was led by Pam Johnson, Treasurer.

Hope Weston introduced her guest Judy Grove. Our speaker, Mark DesMeules, the Director of Viles Arboretum was introduced by the president.

The minutes of the May meeting were distributed to the members electronically and adopted as received.

A note dated Dec. 1, 2015, from Joan Hague thanking Shirlene Gosline and club members for a visit and plant was read by Secretary, Rose Leavitt.

Treasurer, Pam Johnson, presented the proposed budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The budget was adopted by the membership. A copy may be obtained upon request from the treasurer. The treasurer reported that tee shirts will now sell for \$10 and aprons for \$12.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

AWARDS:

Information on National Garden Club, New England Regional and Garden Club Federation of Maine awards was provided to committee chairs to encourage them to apply for awards.

The club has applied for National awards for: yearbook, publicity press book, and youth horticulture education for children. The club has applied for the following GCFM awards: Club of Distinction, Kathleen Marty Award for Civic Development, Stephanie Ann Smith Traveling Trophy for Garden Therapy, and the Phyllis C. Lewis Traveling Trophy for Best Programs for Children Promoting Horticulture, Nature and Conservation. New England award applications are due in August.

BARROWS SCHOLARSHIP:

Debbie Sherman, co-chair of this committee, upon membership approval of the Board's recommendation to award \$2000 this year to be divided among three students, reported: \$1000 to Hall-Dale senior Signe Lynch, who will attend Bates College and major in Environmental Studies and Conservation; \$500 to Kevin Frankhauser of Gardiner, who attends UMO; and \$500 to Raquel Gibbs of Winslow, who attends Husson University. Both Kevin and Raquel were 2015 scholarship recipients and were eligible to re-apply this year. Thank you letters were received.

GARDEN THERAPY & CIVIC ACTIVITIES:

Nancy Voisine and Penny Pray reported that this committee currently has twelve members and seven active gardens: Children's Center, Cohen Center, Glenridge, Hubbard Free Library, MGMC, Togus VA, and the Viles Arboretum. Participation is about 75%. Each garden was worked in the spring to get them ready for the blooming season and will be worked again in the fall for cleaning and cutting back for their winter's rest. It was decided at the April 2016 board meeting that the committee would remain as one entity with two separate missions. Civic Activities will be chaired by Nancy Voisine and Garden Therapy will be chaired by Penny Pray.

New committee member, Ellen Jackson, is currently working with the Rail Trail Committee to develop a new garden area along the Rail Trail on Main Avenue in Farmingdale. Ellen will report as decisions are made.

MEMBERSHIP:

New members are 2015: Darlene Bassett, Winthrop; Dorothy Lombard, Augusta; Jennifer Young, Whitefield; 2016: Mary Warren, Randolph; Laura Boyett, Augusta. A listing with addresses, etc., was distributed at this annual meeting and are available upon request from Shelly Hanson, Membership Chair.

YEAR BOOK:

The committee made a few changes this year and we will receive a yearbook annually eliminating the need for supplements. Bylaws will now be included and the membership roster will be in the center of the book in a different color making it easier to find.

Work is now underway in preparing the 2016-2017 yearbook and will be available in September. Please plan to attend the September meeting to pick up your yearbook to help save on postage.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

Julie Meagher reported that four educational sessions were presented this year at Farrington School in Augusta to 2nd and 4th grade classrooms: Bring on the Brassica; Birds in Winter; Hydroponic Gardening; and A Field of Beans. Presentations were made, including hands-on experience by the students, their favorite part bring sampling and tasting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

GARDEN TOUR:

Hostesses are still needed for some of the gardens on our tour. Sign-up sheets are in the foyer, please sign up for a spot if you have not already done so.

There will be a pre tour get-together for hostesses and garden owners on June 17, 2016, at Kennebec Savings Bank in Farmingdale at 4:00 pm. Please make an effort to attend.

BLUEPRINT:

Penny Pray unveiled the newly framed blueprint of the original design of the Garden Club Park, done by Lyle Littlefield. This will be hung at the Viles Foundation, and as mentioned prior, will remain the property of the KVGC.

NEW BUSINESS:

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

The Board recommends that KVGC purchase a 2-sided banner to promote activities of the club to be paid for by the monies donated for the garden tour. The recommendation was adopted.

A committee was set up to design the banner and will meet directly after the annual meeting.

The Board recommends KVGC discontinue being responsible for the Garden Club Park and that up to \$10,000 from the Garden Club Park funds be used to purchase a stone bench in honor of club members past and present, as well as a stone for Elsie Viles to match William's stone, to be placed at a location to be decided. Recommendation adopted.

It was then suggested that an appropriate spot for placement might be the Viles Arboretum and Mark DesMeules thought this would be a workable idea. A committee will be considering viable options for placement.

The president informed members that the Board of Directors has conferred Life Membership to four members who have given outstanding service to the club: Betty Carpenter, Ginny Dogherty, Barbara Patterson and Hope Weston.

PHOTO CONTEST:

Karen Foster reported that we once again will promote a photo contest. Pictures must be submitted by August 2017 for judging the following September. The topic this year will be the four seasons. Pictures may be taken in our own gardens, those of friends, or out in the wild, but no public gardens. Members may submit one photo for each season if they wish. The photos need to be 4x6 mounted on black paper showing a 1" border. Participants must put their name on the back of the photo prior to mounting. Please see our website for more information.

PROGRAM: The program at the annual meeting was a presentation by Mark DesMeules, Director of the Viles Arboretum. Wonderful new programs and upgrades are happening and if you have not been to the arboretum recently, you must go see what is being done.

RESOLUTIONS:

Hope Weston spoke at length about two of our members who passed away this year: Sue Jewett Simpson and Jean Linscott Wave. They will both be greatly missed by our membership.

Karen Foster, member of the Resolutions Committee, read a poem written by Archibald Rutledge, entitled "The Garden I Made".

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Rose Leavitt, Secretary