

Draft MINUTES
DISTRICT X BOARD MEETING
July 14, 2021

PRESENT: Nancy Arthur, Deborah Morris, Deborah Francis, Carol Comando, Heidi Buchholz, Judy Bergstrom, Jane Madis, Pat Kind, Etta Barbanti, Sally Cerny, Linda Marino, Laurie Unick, Debbie Stave

CALL TO ORDER – at 10:00 AM by District Director Nancy Arthur at First Presbyterian Church in Liberty, NY. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Nancy Arthur thanked Community Garden Club of Liberty for hosting today’s meeting with coffee and refreshments. Immediate past co-Director Carol Comando was presented with a past District Director pin and a gift card.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The Minutes of April 21, 2021 were accepted as submitted.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Balance in the checking account as of 4/30/2021 was \$1,445.30. With receipts of \$845, the account balance on 6/30/2021 was \$2,290.30. The savings account balance is \$5,487.23, for total operating funds of \$7,777.53. Report by Deborah Francis did not include the Orange Bank and Trust CD or the Flower Show School Scholarship CD. The report will be filed for audit.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY – No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS -

Awards – Artful Gardeners has submitted an award application for one of its members. The application was sent to the NYS Awards Chair in July.

Finance – Heidi Buchholz reported that she audited the Treasurer’s books for District X, FGCNYS, Inc. for the period 4/1/19 through 3/31/21: Opening balance \$13,293.18, receipts of \$3,937.83 and disbursements of \$4,718.70 left a balance of \$12,512.31 (in good order thanks to former Treasurer Ann Muller). The Audit Report is attached for the file.

Garden Therapy – Program and Arboriculture/Horticulture - No report.

Scholarship – Jane Madis reported that she sent applications to colleges in 2020 for the 2021 award year. The student application sent to NGC received an award in the amount of \$4,000.00. The students submitted to FGCNYS, Inc. received \$2,000.00. CAR-SGC awards in the fall.

The Guidelines and Application will be updated on the FGCNYS, Inc. website this summer and applications will be available in the fall. If your club has given a student scholarship award and has been followed up on, please let them know that after they have finished their first year of college, they are eligible for a financial Scholarship Award. Application information can be accessed on the Federation website: www.fgcny.com under the Applications and Forms tab.

Historian – It was reported that Betty Jessup is assembling a new scrapbook and will create a presentation for members to review.

Internet – Deborah Francis reported that the meeting to transfer responsibility for the website has not yet occurred.

Publicity – No report.

Judges Council – Jane Madis reported that Ninth and Tenth District Judges will meet again 8/2/21. All Judges have been notified by NGC and FGCNYS, Inc. Judges Credential Chairman that they are in good standing until 12/31/2022 due to the Covid Pandemic inhibiting the ability for clubs to hold flower shows or judges to exhibit or judge at flower shows in person and gain the credits they need. Jane Madis has signed up to attend the Symposium for required credit in Long Island in October of this year.

Membership- Report prepared by Bonnie Sherwood was read by Nancy Arthur.

Artful Gardeners – 17 Active members
Clarkstown Garden Club – 23 members (22 Active, 1 Associate)
Cornwall Garden Club – 51 members (32 Active, 19 Associate)
Community Garden Club of Liberty – 28 members (25 Active, 3 Associate)
Community Garden Club of Pine Bush – 23 Active members
Garden Lovers Club – 47 members (32 Active, 15 Associate)
Roscoe Rockland Garden Club – 24 members (20 Active, 4 Associate)
Warwick Valley Garden Club – 78 members (59 Active, 19 Associate)
Total District Membership – 291 (230 Active, 61 Associate)

Life Membership – No report.

Hospitality and Protocol – Carol Comando reported that the Coffee and Luncheon Schedule was revised to reflect that Liberty was providing coffee for today's meeting and Garden Lovers and Roscoe Rockland would host the District X Meeting and Luncheon in October 2021. The revised report will be distributed at the October meeting.

World Gardening – Pat Kind reported that checks for Water for South Sudan and/or Dig Deep were received from Roscoe Rockland Garden Club, Warwick Valley Gardeners and Community Garden Club of Pine Bush.

Yearbooks – Report prepared by Ann Bloom was read by Nancy Arthur. Yearbooks have been received from 3 clubs: Artful Gardeners, Cornwall and Warwick Valley. All clubs were notified to send 3 copies. Some clubs related they were not printing yearbooks this year. The 3 books submitted are in the process of being judged by 3 people and clubs will be notified before August 1, 2021. NGC has discontinued giving awards for yearbooks, however, NY State and CAR-SGC will continue giving awards.

Nancy Arthur advised that club presidents will be contacted to provide a PDF file of their members and activities if they did not prepare a yearbook this year.

The District X Directory is available on the Google Drive. The User Id is: district.x.fgcny@gmail.com.

CLUB PRESIDENTS REPORTS –

Artful Gardeners – Report by Jane Madis.

April meeting was held at the home of member Maria Longano. The President gave a brief program on Xeriscaping and Sustainable Gardening after the meeting. Beautification Chair Maria Longano represented the club at the Port Jervis Arbor Day Celebration.

In May, we participated in the Port Jervis Citywide Yard Sale, setting up on the property of member Gretel and Earl Walker. Funds from this sale will be used to support club activities. Our May meeting was held at Fair Acres Farm. Members shopped from a large selection of plants for their gardens.

Three city garden were planted in early June: the Underpass, Port Jervis Free Library and Historic Fort Decker sign.

Clarkstown GC – No report.

Community GC of Liberty – Report by Etta Barbanti

In April, the club held a brief business meeting at Liberty Presbyterian Church and finalized plans for a plant/bake sale, to be held for the first time at the Trading Post in Liberty, where they will display a large CGCL canvas sign which can be used for future events.

In May, club members met at the church to carpool to the exotic gardens of John Story in Neversink. He specializes in succulents and his wife is a horticulturist. Their garden tour was lovely and many purchased plants for their own gardens.

In June, the club met at the Town of Thompson Park with free admission and a permit to assure use of the pavilion. A new member was welcomed into the club. Eva Minson, Horticulture Educator at the Center for Discovery in our county, spoke about gardening at the center's grounds with disabled clients and residents. The Center for Discovery has been in the county since the 1970s and is one of its largest employers.

Community GC of Pine Bush – Report by Diane Schlipback was read by Nancy Arthur.

The Community Garden Club of Pine Bush held their first meeting of 2021 in May. They met outside at Verkerderkill Park in Walker Valley, New York. The first meeting was a lot of old and new business which was necessary since we had not met since October of 2020. The club passed an austerity budget since they have been unable to hold their fundraiser tea for two years. They reviewed the programs and projects for the rest of this year. Their community gardens are in great shape thanks to hard working members. The club was also thrilled to have two very enthusiastic potential new members.

The June meeting was held at the Garden of Hope in Pine Bush located in one of the town's beautiful parks. The garden was built by a track that is used for the cancer relay for life. It is a pink garden representing breast cancer, and the club planted two pink kousa dogwood trees in memory of two members that were lost within the past few years. Both these members were men. The club did a dedication, and enjoyed this beautiful setting on a gorgeous evening. Members shared great garden ideas in the "down and dirty" segment of the meeting. One member brought lots of great gardening books for members to take home. The club is off to a great start this year, and hopefully are able to keep this wonderful club going for a long time.

Cornwall GC – Report by Denis Nichols was read by Nancy Arthur.

In April, the club met outdoors at Sands-Ring Homestead and enjoyed a program, led by Ann Bloom and Robin Portelli, about getting our gardens and tools ready for planting. The club also had an Arbor Day ceremony in front of Town Hall, at which a sugar maple was planted on the grounds.

In May, the club held their annual plant sale, their only fundraiser for the year. It was a fantastic success and sold out by 11:00 AM.

In June, the club had an interesting and informative field trip titled "What's New in Plants?" at Twin Ponds Nursery in Montgomery, NY. Choosing different kinds of plants and different combinations of plants for our urn and garden plantings was the centerpiece of the meeting.

Garden Lovers of Middletown GC – Report by Linda Marino.

In April, our installation of officers by Jane Madis was held at a member's home. Outgoing President Debbie Morris received her past president pin and a book on gardening. Speaker for the meeting was Kristen White, aka the Chicken Librarian, who has over 10 years experience with homesteading and is living a handmade life, free-ranging on the banks of the Delaware. She lectured on how to grow some unusual but useful plants, giving members access to the different seeds to plant themselves. You can learn more about Kristen at www.chickenlibrarian.com. Also in May, the club went on a field trip to Stone Crop Gardens in Cold Spring, NY, enjoying a guided tour of the gardens which included over 50 plant families. The club enjoyed a lovely luncheon at Hudson House. An artistic crafts workshop was held at a member's home. The members made moss gardens.

In June, the club met for a picnic at Historic Hillhold Museum and Herb Garden and held their meeting at Orange County Arboretum in Campbell Hall, NY. The club's Hidden Garden Tour was held in June, a self-guided tour of some of the finest home gardens in Middletown and the surrounding area, and included a raffle, plant sale and white elephant table. The club continues to maintain the gardens at SUNY Orange, Thrall Park and Historic Hillhold Museum, as well as their Garden Therapy Program.

Roscoe Rockland GC – Report by Sally Cerny.

In April, Karen Bowers hosted a Zoom meeting at which Horticulture Chairperson Nancy Hajeski presented an interesting and informative talk and PowerPoint on Pollinators of the Catskills.

In May, a live Sunday Spring Supper and celebration was held at The Rockland House in Roscoe. Also in May, the club held a hanging plant sale as their spring fundraiser.

In June, the club met outdoors in the evening at Old Springbrook Schoolhouse in Roscoe to see Mary Niforatos' restoration of the one-room schoolhouse and creation of her new market and plants. Dr. Joyce Conroy presented a visual history of the schoolhouse and other one-room schoolhouses in the area.

Warwick Valley GC – Report prepared by Laurie Unick was read by Nancy Arthur.

In this second quarter, the club held three membership meetings, one Zoom, one outdoors in a local park, and the

third indoors. Arbor Day planting was held in April. In May, a \$1000 scholarship was presented to a deserving Warwick Valley high School senior. In June, some members of the club participated in a field trip to Innisfree Gardens. Garden Therapy is still on hold due to Covid. Nine community gardens have all been planted and are doing well.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

FGCNYS, Inc. Board Meeting - Nancy Arthur reported that the FGCNYS, Inc. Board Meeting would be held on September 29, 2021.

Fall 2021 District X Meeting and Luncheon – Deborah Morris and Sally Cerny shared plans for the fall luncheon following the district meeting in the morning.

*****UPDATE*** District Director Nancy Arthur called a special Zoom meeting of the elected officers on 9-2-2021 for the purpose of discussing the format of the October 13, 2021 Luncheon and Meeting.**

Due to cancellations on the state level, mixed messages from the luncheon venue, and the uncertainty of members willing to attend an in-person event if it cannot be held outdoors due to lingering Covid-19 concerns at this time, the officers agreed by consensus that the format of the October 13, 2021 District X Meeting should be online and be open to all members.

Garden Lovers of Middletown and Roscoe Rockland agreed to host the April 2022 District X Luncheon and Meeting. Warwick Valley Garden Club subsequently agreed to postpone their turn to host the luncheon until April 2023. The hospitality schedule will be adjusted to reflect this change.

NEW BUSINESS – none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Liberty shared a sample of a scarecrow frame which will be decorated by Art students and used for their fall club project.

ADJOURNMENT – Nancy Arthur adjourned the meeting at 11:32 AM.

Minutes submitted by:

Carol Comando

Recording Secretary