

GCH Board Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2022
Meeting held at the home of Claire Burnett

Call to order at 11:55 AM by Claire Burnett

Present: Claire Burnett, Marian Kellner, Mally Cox-Chapman, Brie Quinby, Christine Doty, Julie Shushtari, Carrie Hammond, Donna Stout, Mary Ann Haar, Nora Howard, Pat Salner, Mara Sfara, Susan Izard, Sally Richter, Susie Barney, Mem Morissey, Margaret Szerejko.

A correction was made to the May 17, 2022 board meeting minutes (...“the allee of trees for Keney Park is committed to us at Bartlett’s Nursery; the money to pay for the trees remains in the GCH account until needed”)

A motion to accept the revised meeting minutes was made, seconded and approved.

President’s Remarks - Claire Burnett

- The September Stroll at Riverfront Recapture was successful and well received, with excellent commentary and overview of Riverfront Recapture’s current efforts and plans for extension from Debbie Baker and Michael Zaleski. Thanks to all the Hostesses and Sally Weisman for organizing. A brief discussion about considering a donation from GCH to the organization, possibly as an honorarium, was held and will be revisited at a later date.
- Kudos to Susie Barney for putting out the Zone II Meeting special edition of the Trumpet Vine. Well done.
- Our various committee chairs have met with the other Zone II committee chairs this month in an attempt to collaborate and share ideas and projects. They have found this helpful, and hopefully this will be an ongoing effort.
- GCH will be receiving the Pauline Tyler Award from the Federated Garden Clubs of CT, honoring our work in Conservation and Legislation. This will be presented at an awards luncheon at the Aqua Turf in Plainville on Oct 26. Some members of the Conservation Committee will represent the GCH.
- The 2022/2023 GCH programs are in place. Please start considering program ideas for the 2023/2024 calendar year and forward to the Programs Committee

- The GCH mailing lists are generated from your profile on the GCA website. Please remember to update your profile on the GCA website if you have any changes in your address or contact info. A reminder to do this will be placed in the Trumpet Vine as well.
- All members of the GCH are encouraged to consider potential new members, and introduce them to the club and its activities by inviting them to attend a club meeting as a guest.
- Please familiarize yourself with and utilize the GCH website. Training sessions on the updates and use will be offered to Committee Chairs.
- Katie Nixon has shared the Keney Park Training sessions evaluations and a summary will be published in the Trumpet Vine.
- The Fall issue of the GCA Bulletin should contain the Zone II Meeting highlights, look for it. We will also share what we have with the club.
- Tips for Committee Chairs: 1. Have an agenda for each meeting; 2. Set up and publish a calendar of your meeting dates for the year ahead of time; 3. Read your predecessor's Committee Annual Report.
- GCA National Meeting will be held in Hartford at the Convention Center in April of 2024.

Treasurer's Report - Claire Burnett reporting for Kelly Jarvis

GCA Zone II Meeting - \$0
 Main Checking - \$40,082
 Carry Over - \$6175.50
 Perennial Fund - \$21,959.00
 Rainy Day Fund- \$4180.98
 Community Fund- \$65,009

Committee Reports:

Programs - Susan Izard / Marian Kellner

The 2022/2023 Program Calendar is set for the year. There is still some question about the April 4th program. Although there is a commitment, a definite confirmation

from the speaker, Rebecca McMackin, is not in hand. This is likely a communications issue and we are still expecting the speaker to be present.

The committee is dealing with some space considerations for the October 11 program.

The committee is working on the 2023/2024 programs and has connected with other Zone II reps for ideas/suggestions. Any ideas from our club members are encouraged.

Historian - Nora Howard

Our records are in good shape. The goal is to continue to add to the records with things such as annual reports and other items of historical interest. It would be nice to have photos of the various programs for the archives. It was suggested that for each program, one of the hostesses could be assigned to document with some photos, and send to the historian for the archives. Digital storage of data was briefly discussed. Nora pointed out that the CT Historical Society does not take flash drives. Does our website have limited storage capability? Consider the Cloud. This will be investigated.

Membership - Pat Salner

- The membership committee recently received requests for change of membership category from two members. Both Linda Lydon and Marnie Greenwood would like to move from active to associate. They each meet the requirements of either 20 yrs active and /or over 65 years of age.
- We have also received notification from two members who wish to resign from GCH, Christina Smith and Margaret Heiner. They both have paid dues for the current year and are not expecting a rebate. We are sorry to see them leave GCH. Both Pat Salner and Claire Burnett spoke with each to get more insight as to what went into their decisions to leave GCH.
- Pat Salner requests a vote by the Board to accept these changes in membership category for Linda and Marnie and accept with regret the resignations of Christina and Margaret. With these changes, GCH has 51 actives and 18 associates. Currently, the GCH allows 65 active slots and 20 associate slots.
- After review and discussion of the above information, a motion to accept the resignations of Margaret Heiner and Christina Smith was put forth and seconded. The board approved the motion, with one abstention, to accept the two resignations, with regret.

- After discussion about the protocol and timing of the 2 requests for change of membership category from active to associate, it was felt that the appropriate time to vote on these requests would be at the February 2023 Board Meeting, the traditional time that membership decisions are made.
- A discussion followed about the negative impacts of having too few active members in the club. We need to think of ways to improve and broaden our membership base and to introduce our club to potential new members.
- Membership committee is requesting that both the Treasurer and Directory chair serve on membership for the purposes of maintaining accurate bookkeeping and membership category information.
- Membership committee is looking to add to its ranks. If you would like to consider joining the committee please let Pat Salner know.

Communications - Donna Stout

The GCH members are strongly encouraged to promote our activities and projects by contributing write ups to the GCA Bulletin and our website. The GCH website is being spruced up.

Conservation - Margaret Szerejko reporting for Marnie Greenwood/Marcia Hall

- The Zone II CC Chairs met twice this month: a Zoom meeting attended by Marnie Greenwood and a live meeting in New Haven attended by Marcia Hall. The Zone II committee chairs will continue to meet monthly, overseen by the Zone II Conservation Chair, Elizabeth Hopley of Greenwich. The purpose is to share club projects and initiatives; get updates on pertinent upcoming national and state legislation; and to share information about local events concerning conservation.
- Topics covered in these meetings thus far included: GCA Call to Action on Recovering America's Wildlife Act, passed by the House in June - GCA encourages members to contact their Senators expressing support for this Act; Info regarding a virtual Conservation Study Watch Party on Nov 9, 2022, dealing with Hawaiian bio-cultural conservation practices; Discussion of our water contamination by PFAS, microplastics, and heavy metals and need for local water reports; Beech Leaf disease threatening our beech tree

population; The importance of protecting our tree canopy, especially in the context of tree removal by Eversource, and the need for town action.

- The GCH Conservation Committee will have its first meeting on October 6 and has much to consider as to what its focus will be in the next two years.

Civic Projects - Carrie Hammond

- We had great evaluations of our Keney Park Worker classes. (See attached) The next sessions are scheduled for Oct 6, 13, 20 and 27. We need at least 2 volunteers for each class meeting to provide coffee and breakfast treats and to participate with park employees at the work site. Set up is at 8:00 AM and classes end at 9:30 AM.
- Allee of Trees planting at the Woodland Street entrance to Keney Park: Pre-meeting with Josh Lehmann of Bartlett Trees at 9:30 on Oct 4; tree planting and underplanting on Oct 19 (times to be determined by next committee meeting). We're looking for strategies to involve lots of club members for planting. Amy Schuster will help decide on plant materials.
- We have new money from Partners for Plants to be used for plant materials this coming year. Katie is working with Mark Dowd on options.
- The Bushnell Garden I Quilt planting project is still on hold, we have the money.
- We are still hoping to get involved with the Hartford LandBank and its plan to revitalize vacant lots and abandoned houses in Hartford. More to follow.
- Next committee meeting will be via Zoom on Sept.28 at 9 AM.

Other announcements:

Please submit any material for the next Trumpet Vine edition by this weekend.

Information regarding the 2023 UConn Master Gardener Classes will be published in the Trumpet Vine.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Szerejko
Recording Secretary