

GCH Board Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2023
Meeting held at the home of Claire Burnett

Call to order at 12:00 PM by Claire Burnett

Present: Claire Burnett, Susie Barney, Mally Cox-Chapman, Marnie Greenwood, Mary Ann Haar, Marcia Hall, Nora Howard, Susan Izard, Kelly Jarvis, Mem Morrissey, Katie Nixon, Susan Rathgeber, Sally Richter, Pat Salner, Julie Shushtari, Margaret Szerejko

A motion to accept the January 17, 2023 Board Meeting minutes was made, seconded and approved

President's Remarks - Claire Burnett

1. Federated Garden Club Annual Reports are due April 1st. Civic Projects, Conservation, and Horticulture are the committees that are required to complete these reports.
2. Lindsay Whitaker sent a lovely note of thanks to GCH for the oak tree planting in Arline's memory and looks forward to attending the dedication this spring. She feels that the White Oak will grow to be tall and strong like her mother was.
3. Don't forget to cast your vote for the Founders Fund finalist by March 1. The link will be in the Trumpet Vine.
4. The 41st Annual CT Flower Show takes place at the CT Convention Center Thursday Feb 23 - Sunday Feb 26. Mary Ann Haar has submitted an entry.
5. All Zone II members are invited to attend a hands-in demonstration by noted flower designer Jane Godshalk, sponsored by the Litchfield GC, to be held at the Litchfield Community Center on Thursday March 23, 5 - 7 PM. More information is on the Zone II landing page.
6. Trumpet Vine articles are due this Friday Feb 24.

Civic Projects Update - Katie Nixon

We are in a waiting pattern for all three of our current initiatives:

- Hartford Land Trust: We have narrowed down to two options for a future project:
 1. Partner with Urban farmers in some way as they take ownership of their land and begin gardens. We have been invited to their next group meeting to assess this possibility.

2. Work with neighbors to create play space and children's teaching gardens. Timing is uncertain for this and realistically wouldn't get started until next fall.
- iQuilt's Bushnell Gardens: We are essentially back to the drawing board as this organization has been jumping through hoops with city of Hartford bureaucracy and apparently the mayor didn't like the initial design (done by a landscape architecture firm) and he took his time communicating that. The mayor wants more green space and sustainability. Amy Schuster and I are scheduling a meeting with them to talk design, which has to change because of new cost restrictions. As a board, we may ask ourselves when is enough, enough and pull the plug. We have had \$48,000 sitting in our account for probably four years. We can discuss that at our March or April meeting.
 - Partners For Plants (P4P) money: We have \$4,000 left to spend, which must be spent by June (after which we must take a year off from applying for grant money, as per GCA rules). We think we'll do more gardens near the Pond House at Keney Park, but meetings are stalled because of no response from their new Ex. Director, Ryan Drew. Frustrating, as I estimate we've spent more than \$60,000 at Keney, not to mention countless volunteer hours and I let him know that.

Treasurer's Report - Kelly Jarvis	
Carry Over Fund 5301	\$6,175.50
GCA Zone II Meeting Fund 6227	\$ 0.00
Main Checking Account 0738	\$31,029.98
Perennial Fund 7034	\$22,009.37
Rainy Day Fund 9004	\$ 5,355.33
Community Fund 8539	\$45,732.66
Education Fund 6342	\$6,322.00

Reminder that GCH annual dues must be submitted by April 1st

Trumpet Vine - Susie Barney

The login and password info for the Federated Garden Club of CT will be published again in the next Trumpet Vine issue:

Address: <https://ctgardenclubs.org/>

User ID: fgctt

Password: CharterOak*2022

Programs - Susan Izard

We have our full slate for the 2023-2024 program year:

September Stroll (Susan Masino)

October public meeting - Kevin Budris of Just Zero (we are applying for a grant to help fund)

November meeting - Rebecca McMackin, horticulturist and garden designer currently awarded the Harvard Loeb Fellowship, studying ecological design and science communication.

January Joint Meeting- Patterson Webster, writer, visual artist, and garden designer.

February - Carol Evans (Executive director of Legacy Parks Foundation)

March- Mary Pelletier, Hartford Park Watershed

April- a photography person

May - annual meeting

June picnic - discussion about holding this event in the evening was favorably received.

Membership - Pat Salner

The committee thanks all those involved in the membership recruitment/proposal process.

Currently GCH has 50 active members, with space for 65, and we would welcome the addition of these proposed members.

- For the Board's consideration and vote, the committee has approved, and is pleased to present, 8 new candidates for active membership:

1. Jilly Walsh (proposed by Nora Howard)
2. Tracy Payne (proposed by Nora Howard}
3. Marnie Rubin (proposed by Donna Stout)
4. Jill Peters-Gee (proposed by Marian Kellner)
5. Al Gatti (proposed by Sally Richter)
6. Linda Alexander (proposed by Mally Co-Chapman)
7. Amanda Leyden (proposed by LeeLee Duryea
8. Sarah Uphoff Dreyer (proposed by Jan Hickox)

A summary of proposed members bios and other information was presented and is attached.

All proposed members were unanimously approved by the Board.

- The membership committee presented to the Board requests for change in membership status by the following members:

Helen Savage - active to affiliate

Brooke Mallory - associate to affiliate

Nancy Macy - active to associate

Linda Lydon - active to affiliate

Tita Hyland - active to associate

Agnes Peelle - active to associate, (already approved , needs to be changed in the directory)

Christina Smith - resigned

The requests for change were unanimously approved by the Board.

There was brief discussion about developing a more structured introduction and onboarding process for our new members.

The possibility of allowing a sabbatical option for active members under certain circumstances was also briefly discussed.

Mally Cox-Chapman voiced the Board's appreciation and recognition of all the hard work that Pat Salner and the membership committee put in to achieve such a successful and forward thinking outcome this year.

The full membership Committee report is included as an attachment.

Name Tags - Mem Morrissey

The name tags have been updated/revised (2 -sided) by Claire Burnett

Other Business:

- Directory suggestions:

Include photos of each member in the directory.

Include a short description of each Committee in the directory.

- Marnie Greenwood, as Conservation Chair, asked the GCH to please try and consider conservation practices when providing refreshments for, and conducting meetings, programs , outings etc..This includes minimization and proper disposal of food and trash waste, and paying attention to having reusable or recyclable materials .

- Signs for the “No Mow May” project will be available to those who have signed up at the April meeting
- Claire reminded all committee chairs to provide her with updated information for the GCH website.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Szerejko
Recording Secretary

(Attachment next page)

Attachment 1:

Membership Committee Report to GCH Board February 21, 2023

The Membership Committee is presenting to the Board eight outstanding candidates for Active membership in GCH. Each application has a proposer and two seconders. Thank you to the members who are proposers and seconders for these prospective members. All eight were approved by the Membership Committee unanimously and the committee hopes that the Board will approve all of these candidates. As you are aware, the application lists the candidate's interest in gardening and reason for wanting to join GCH, and their knowledge and areas of expertise both professionally and avocationally. The seconders have provided strong endorsements for each, with additional information about the person she is seconding. There are no negative comments about any of the candidates. Here is the summary information provided for each:

1. Jilly Walsh lives in Avon, proposed by Nora Howard and seconded by Marcia Hall and Jan Hickox.
 - a. Jilly grew up in NJ but spent a lot of time in England where her mother is from and many visits with her grandmother's gardens.
 - b. Retired ceramicist, residing in Avon, Nora has known her as a neighbor and friend for almost 3 years. Prior to living in Avon, Jilly resided in Woodstock CT where she and her husband Alex had a farm with animals and gardens, which was featured in Yankee Magazine in 2011.
 - c. A graduate of RISD, Jilly now paints and makes collages, inspired by her garden. Her garden in Avon is pollinator focused.
 - d. Having attended several meetings, Jilly has met a number of our members
 - e. Jilly's interests lie in floral design, horticulture and garden history and design and is open to learning about other opportunities in GCH.
 - f. Both Marcia and Jan know Jilly to be an avid gardener and a lovely person.
2. Tracy Payne lives in Avon, proposed by Nora Howard and seconded by Marcia Hall and Jan Hickox
 - a. A new neighbor of Nora's who moved to Avon from CO 11/2 years ago. Tracy and her husband moved into a historic home and dairy farm, once owned by John and Gussie Alsop. Nora connected Tracy to the Avon Historical society so she could learn more about the home and the area.
 - b. Tracy is a retired engineer and is a certified Master Composter. In Denver, she did extensive work with the Denver Urban Gardens—50 community gardens where water resources and gardening at elevation were major

challenges. She taught children and adults about the importance of soil amendments, worms and compost. She is a strong advocate for creating one's own compost.

- c. She is a firm believer that gardening makes a significant positive impact in one's health.
 - d. Tracy has been to a few meetings and has had the opportunity to meet members at those meetings and at the meet and greet that Nora and Claire hosted in January. Tracy also pitched in at the February meeting by lending dishes and tea cups and created a centerpiece for the tea table. She is a hands on person!
 - e. Tracy has a garden filled with peony beds and a grapevine arbor that is probably close to a century old. She has two large barns to renovate, one room she is using for storing her homemade preserves.
 - f. Her area of interests include: civic projects, conservation, horticulture, programs, visiting gardens and ways & means.
 - g. Both Marcia Hall and Jan Hickox endorse Tracy whole-heartedly as an engaging person who is looking forward to sharing her expertise and learn more about GCH projects and programs.
3. Marnie Rubin lives in West Simsbury, proposed by Donna Stout and seconded by Marian Kellner and Susan Rathgeber
- a. Marnie has lived in the area for 16 years Donna has known Marnie for 3 years. Marnie has attended a number of meetings with Donna and is looking forward to honing her floral design skills. She is familiar with garden club work through her mother who was active with the Sasqua GC and involvement at the GCA level.
 - b. By profession, Marnie is an attorney, focused on human resources, for a law firm in Hartford. In addition to her law work, Marnie volunteers with a number of professional organizations related to HR management. She is also active in her neighborhood association.
 - c. Marnie has a semi-formal cottage garden made up of perennial beds, a raised bed vegetable garden, cutting garden and water garden. All gardens were designed by Marnie when she moved in 16 years ago.
 - d. Marnie's interests are in conservation, horticulture, flower arranging, photography and preservation.
 - e. Marnie's schedule is flexible so she will be able to commit being involved with GCH programs and activities.
 - f. Both Marian Kellner and Susan Rathgeber give Marnie high endorsements for her strong interest in gardening, enthusiasm for learning and eagerness to share her knowledge and skills.

4. Jill Peters-Gee lives in West Hartford, proposed by Marian Kellner and seconded by Barbara David and Mary Ann Haar.
 - a. Jill is a retired physician who Marian has known for over 25 years. Jill has lived in the Hartford area for 32 years. In the last few years of her professional career, Jill carved out the time to complete the Master gardener program in 2015. Her community project for the master gardener program was building a colonial medicinal herb garden, working with school children in Barkhamsted. She has continued her involvement with that project and teaches others how to maintain it.
 - b. Jill enjoys vegetable gardening, preserving her harvest and teaching others. She works with seniors and has taught them how to seed save.
 - c. Jill is an avid fly fisher and has organized a fly fishing group for breast cancer survivors.
 - d. Jill's interest in gardening started when she was a young girl growing up on her family's farm in the Midwest.
 - e. One of Jill's retirement goals is to be active in a garden club. She has attended a number of meetings and activities including the greens workshop and flower arranging without oasis, through which she has met many members.
 - f. Jill interest areas include horticulture, conservation and civic projects.
 - g. In her professional role, besides being a caring and compassionate physician, she also took on leadership roles in her medical group. She has strong organizational skills and abilities.
 - h. Endorsements from Mary Ann Haar and Barbara David praise her for her involvement in community activities and leadership skills.
5. Al Gatti lives in Hartford. He is being proposed by Sally Richter and seconded by Nora Howard and Julie Shushtari. Al is a retired attorney with Cigna and Czepiga, Daly, Pope and Perry. His area of specialty is healthcare and finance. Al has lived in Hartford for 35 years and Sally has known him for two years.
 - a. Al has an extensive garden at his home at the Allyn Estate and on Martha's Vineyard. He chairs the landscaping committee at the Allyn Estate and supervises the perennial and vegetable gardens. He and his neighbors grow more than they can use and give away their bounty to others.
 - b. Al works part-time which allows him great flexibility to become involved with projects and programs of the GCH. His interests are civic projects, conservation and horticulture. He thoroughly enjoys hands on digging and planting. He understands the importance of native plants and landscape design.
 - c. Al is an avid birder and will bring that knowledge to GCH as we learn more as to make bird friendly environments.

- d. Al's other community and volunteer work has been with the Alzheimer's Association of CT, Habitat for Humanity and Keney Park.
 - e. Al learned about the GCH through the Keney Park publicity and researched online both GCH and GCA. He saw nothing in any document that indicates that either are female only organizations. He understands that if he is accepted, he will be the first male member of GCH.
 - f. Julie Shushtari and Nora Howard give high praise for Al's membership. In addition to showing strong interest in gardening and participating in a garden club, Nora states that Al is a thoughtful, calm and unflappable person, interested in learning from others. She believes he has talents to share with GCH members and is anxious to learn more about sustainable gardening.
6. Linda Alexander lives in Hartford and is proposed by Mally Cox-Chapman and seconded by Tita Hyland and Clare Edwards. Linda is a professional musician and teacher. Linda has live in Hartford 25 plus years and Mally has known her for 10 years. She has retired from teaching and is now focusing on her flute playing.
- a. Linda has a small urban garden with impeccably chosen plants, featuring dahlias and peonies.
 - b. In addition to attending GCH meetings, Linda has volunteered at Keney Park. She is looking forward to getting involved with many programs and projects.
 - c. Her strong interest lies in civic projects, horticulture and conservation and in retirement she has time to commit to being actively involved with GCH.
 - d. Her volunteer work is as a docent at the Wadsworth. She is also active with the Elizabeth Park Conservancy.
 - e. Both Tita Hyland and Clare Edwards give Linda high endorsement for joining GCH
7. Amanda Layden lives in Farmington and is being proposed by LeeLee Duryea and seconded by Ellyn Marshall and Jennifer Labinski. Amanda has live in the area for 15 plus years and LeeLee has known her for two. Amanda is an attorney and real estate sales associate. Her work schedule is flexible enough that she will have time to commit to being involved with GCH.
- a. Amanda has vegetable gardens, perennial beds and specimen trees that actuate her hillside home.
 - b. Her interests lie in conservation, civic projects, photography, horticulture, flower arranging and preservation.
 - c. Amanda is eager to share what she knows about gardening and learn from other club members and our programs.
 - d. Amanda's volunteer activities include involvement with her children's schools: KO and Choate.

- e. Amanda is an organized and creative person with many leadership skills
 - f. Both Jennifer Labinski and Ellyn Marshall give Amanda high endorsement citing her energy and willingness to be involved with GCH.
8. Sarah Uphoff Dreyer lives in Norfolk and is being proposed by Jan Hickox and seconded by Kitty Hickox and Gwen Love. Sara is an interior designer and Innkeeper. She originally from the Hartford area and was in San Francisco until recently, when she settled back in CT. Jan has known her for 45 years.
- a. Sarah has a historic home in Norfolk CT (1880) and is doing research on the origins of its gardens. She has already designed a pollinator garden which she hopes to develop further.
 - b. Her areas of interest include horticulture, conservation, flower arranging, photography and preservation.
 - c. She has been an active volunteer in her community and involved in her children's schools.
 - d. She looks forward to actively participating in projects and programs with the GCH.
 - e. Kitty Hickox and Gwen Love give strong endorsements for Sarah. She is described as a hard-worker and puts her heart and soul into all that she does.