

New England Garden Clubs, Inc.
Third Annual Meeting – October 29, 2019 – Woodstock, VT

Minutes

The 3rd Annual Meeting of the New England Garden Clubs was called to order at 9:17 am on Tuesday, October 29, 2019 by Suzanne Bushnell, NEGC Director.

Please note that in an effort to allow more of a focus on the award recipients the NEGC Awards were awarded last night at the Annual NEGC Meeting.

The Invocation was given by Esther Swett former Member Award of Honor, Rutland Garden Club, Vermont.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Maggie Bills of Newfane Garden Club of Vermont.

The members seated at the Head Table were introduced by Becky Gallery of Harpswell Garden Club in Maine. Becky is standing in for Nancy Donaldson NEGC Protocol Chair.

Treasurer - Judith Tarbox (ME)

Secretary - Vera Bowen (RI)

NEGC Director - Suzanne Bushnell (ME)

Additional Introductions:

NEGC Alternate Director – Kathleen Marty (ME)

State Presidents:

Arlene Field – Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut

Barbara Longstaff – Garden Club Federation of Maine

Bonnie Rosenthal – Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts

Susan Miner – New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs

Deborah Ort – Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs

Susan Hinkel and Caroline Frey, Co-Presidents – Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont

Former NER/NEGC Directors who were in attendance were Introduced

Nancy Atwell 1995 -1997 (ME), Pamela Hebert 2005-2007 (VT), Joyce Kimball 2011-2013 (NH), Maria Nahom 2013-2015 (CT), Vera Bowen 2015-2017 (RI), Susan Hinkel 2017-2019 (VT)

NEGC Committee Members were introduced

Arabella Dane (MA and NH) Photographer, Terese D’Urso (CT) Landscape Design Schools Chair, Elizabeth Lakeman (ME) Region Awards Co-Chairman, Deb Ort (RI) State President and NEGC Youth Activities Chairman, Sandi Tinyk (RI) Region Historic, Memorial and Public Gardens Chairman, Pat Williams (VT) 2019 Annual Meeting Registrar, Rosann Sexton (VT) 2019 Annual Meeting Vice Chair, Jane Waugh (CT) NGC Nominating Committee and NGC Website Committee.

Welcome to the State Caroline Frey, Co-President of the Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont

Welcomed us to the state with a fascinating accounting of Vermont's many beautiful facts and accomplishments.

The Response and Invitation

The Response and Invitation was given by Barbara Longstaff, President of the Garden Club Federation of Maine. The fourth Annual Meeting of NEGC, will be held October 13 – 14, 2020 at the beautiful Village by the Sea Resort, 1373 Post Road, Wells, Maine 04090. Barbara mentioned that there will be a Mini Garden Tour and our NGC National President Gay Austin will be joining us!

NEGC Alternate Director Kathleen Marty presented the Standing Rules, which were adopted.

The Preliminary Registration report was given by Pat Williams, Registrar, fifty-six registered members and eight guests.

The Preliminary Credentials Report was given with 55 attendees with 5 guests with a voting strength of 50. A motion was made for the adoption of the preliminary credentials report. The motion was carried.

A quorum was declared.

Sue Hinkel, Annual Meeting Chairman moved for the adoption of the Meeting Program with changes. The 2019 NEGC Meeting Program was adopted with changes. A copy of the program will be filed with these Minutes.

The Director appointed Barbara Longstaff, President, the Garden Club Federation of Maine, and Bonnie Rosenthal, President, the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts to approve the Minutes of this meeting.

Being no objection, Kitty Furman of the Rutland Garden Club of Vermont was appointed page to NEGC Director, Suzanne Bushnell.

Time keepers appointed were Pat Cherry of the Garden Club of Manchester and Jean Swanson of the Springfield Garden Club, both from Vermont.

The report of the Committee to Approve the Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting was given by Joyce Kimball, Former President of New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs and Former Region Director. The Minutes were approved and were posted on the website.

REPORTS:

NEGC Director, Suzanne Bushnell gave her report. It is filed with these Minutes.

Judith Tarbox, Treasurer presented the proposed budget for 2019-2021. On behalf of the Budget Committee, she moved that the NEGC Budget be adopted. It was adopted as presented.

NEGC Presidents: Arlene Field, CT., Barbara Longstaff, ME., Bonnie Rosenthal, MA., Susan Miner, NH., Deb Ort, RI., and Caroline Frey, VT Co-President. Reports of these Presidents are on file with these Minutes.

Judith Tarbox, NEGC Treasurer and Vera Bowen, NEGC Secretary were voted on and confirmed as Treasurer and Secretary for the 2019-2021 term.

The following NEGC Chairmen reported:

Awards Co-Chair Judy Stallworth gave a report on the awards offered and applied for.

Michelle Mensinger reported on the 2020 Tri-State Symposium to be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Manchester, NH August 10-12th.

Deb Ort, RI State President and NEGC Youth Activities Chairman reminded us of the deadlines for submission of Youth Awards.

Arabella Dane, reported on New England's most at risk native plants.

All the above reports will be filed with these Minutes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to come before the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

A reminder that the Tri-State Symposium will take place in Manchester, NH Aug 10-12, 2020.

The next NEGC Annual Meeting will take place Oct 13-14, 2020 in Wells, Maine.

The meeting recessed for 20 minutes and reconvened at 11.00 a.m. at which time our speaker Jamie Mansfield spoke on stone walls and ways to incorporate them into your garden.

Lunch followed at noon. Raffle tickets and Silent Auction items were drawn and distributed.

A final Registration and Credential Reports was given. Both of which remained the same as the original reports.

Director, Suzanne Bushnell thanked Sue Hinkel, her committee and the members of the Vermont Garden Clubs for a wonderful two days. She also thanked all those in attendance for coming and showing support for NEGC. She wished everyone a safe travel home, and a Happy Holiday Season.

The meeting adjourned at 2:08pm.

Sine die

Vera Bowen

Submitted by: Vera Bowen, NEGC Secretary.

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