

BATH GARDENING CLUB & HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

www.bathgardeningclub.com

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

November 23, 2020

2:00 P.M.

Via Zoom

I. OPENING REMARKS – President Janice Firth

1. **Welcome and Updates** – Janice welcomed everyone to the Zoom annual general meeting. Special thanks to Sue Carew, District 3 Director, for attending. It was noted that there are 24 members in attendance via Zoom at the meeting.

Janice advised that the Bath Gardening Club was honoured as the recipient of the 2020 Bill Lowry Service Award awarded by the township for community service at a recent virtual township council meeting. The Club was nominated by Diane Nolting, head of the Bath Canada Day committee. Congratulations members!

Many thanks to Pat Chown and Don Taylor for writing an article with pictures included of some activities and beautiful work of the Club for the OHA Trillium magazine. Thanks Pat and Don!

The annual carolling in the park will not be held this year due to Covid 19 restrictions in the community.

2. **Garden Quote** – *“There are certain, very stabilizing forces in gardening that can ground us when we are feeling uncertain. It’s these predictable outcomes, predictable rhythms of the garden that are very comforting right now.”*

II. BUSINESS

1. **Approval of Agenda.**

No additional agenda items were presented.

Motion: to approve the agenda for today’s annual general meeting.

Put forward: Dawn Ford

Second: Laurie Minorgan

Approved unanimously

2. **Minutes of Last Annual General Meeting of October 2019**

Motion: to approve the minutes if the annual general meeting from October 2019

Put forward: Sue Nillson

Second: Kathy Ffolliott
Approved unanimously

3. Election of Officers

Janice Firth asked if there were any further nominations from the floor for other executive positions. There were none.

District 3 Director Sue Carew read the statement of direction and support for the new Club executive, and declared the 2020-2021 officers as installed in the positions. The new executive is as follows:

President – Janice Firth

Vice-President – Mike Janssens

Treasurer – Laurie Minorgan and Jane Ledingham

Publicity Secretary – Heather Bennett

Membership Secretary – Holly Adam

Recording Secretary – Jeannie Pickles Czesnik

4. Reports

Treasurer's Report – Laurie Minorgan and Jane Ledingham

Laurie provided the following update:

Bank account balance - \$11,394.62

The 2 GIC's held by the Club which matured on March 17, 2020 (\$5150.30) and May 4, 2020 respectively (3,093.96) were not renewed.

The proposed 2020-2021 budget detail was reviewed. Noted changes included the Barrels, Planters, Bridge Garden, and Bugtel being rolled into a single category. Also, the speaker fees have been increased due to the rise in Master Gardener fees. The increase also permits the program committee in approaching a broader range of speakers. \$400 has been added to the bridge garden budget to pay a company to service this area.

Dawn Ford advised that an additional 3 barrels were donated, so an extra \$75 should be added to the proposed budget to account for the plants required for these.

Laurie will amend the total expense and profit/loss figures and resend the budget.

Motion: to approve the 2020-2021 budget

Put forward: Roxanna Beddington

Second: Joanna Sperinck

Website Update – Sandra Lowman

Sandra advised that the Club executive is proposing to change its web hosting company to Web Hosting Canada which is dedicated to web hosting and technical support, and will provide much greater website security. The new budget has included the proposed expenditure of funds to hire a web designer to move the website to a new platform and content to the new provider. In view of this, it is an opportune time for the Club website to be redesigned with a new look, updated content, greater access,

and improved functionality. An email will be sent out seeking volunteers to form a committee to provide input on a new website design.

A vote indicated that the majority of members agreed to the move to a new website, and to approve the one-time expenditure of funds included in the new budget to hire a web programmer.

Membership Report – Holly Adam

Holly advised that the current membership total is 77, up from last year's number. The online membership registration and the membership registration blitz proved to be very effective. 14 members registered online, and 15 members paid via etransfer.

Programming Report – Jane Ledingham & Pat Chown

Jane and Pat provided an update on the 2020-2021 program. The summer garden tour was very successful, and we have enjoyed 2 wonderful presentations this year in September and October. The Xmas gnome workshop in November was also a success. 2021 has a roster of interesting speakers:

January – Linda Jameson, owner of Frog Pond Farms, on organic gardening

February – Courtney Stewart on Islamic art and gardens

March – Peter Fuller – using native plants in gardens

April – a look at the 2020 Chelsea garden show

May – Astrid Muschalla – Invasive plants and how to deal with them

June – our own Pat Haslett, on local garden issues, followed by a Q&A session

Any suggestions or questions should be sent to Jane Ledingham.

Village Planting Report – Dawn Ford and Pat Chown

Dawn reported that the Club planted 44 barrels and 5 metal planters, as well as the bridge garden, the museum garden, the post office, and Schell's garden. Teams were used to weed the various gardens. As this proved to work out very well, this strategy will be used again next year. An additional 3 new barrels were donated by Rick Paudyn. The total cost of plants for last season was \$1579.76.

Dawn asked that some monies be set aside in the budget for new signs for the planters, as the current ones are quite worn out. A notice will be sent out asking for input on a new design for the signs.

Market Update – Wendy O'Neill

Wendy had reported that the Amherstview market never opened, and the Bath Sunday market opened for a very short period of time due to Covid 19 restrictions. A total of \$400 was spent, and \$400 taken in as income. As the role of market coordinator is proving to be too much for one person, a committee will be formed to perform the duties next year.

III. New Business

- a) Proposed change to constitution – Finances #4 – “All expenditures for items in excess of **one hundred dollars** that are not included in the budget for the current fiscal year shall require approval by a motion passed at a general meeting or Board of Directors meeting”.

❖ Suggest that this be increased to at least \$300

After discussion, it was decided to amend Finances #4 of the Club constitution to read as follows:

“All expenditures for items in excess of **three hundred dollars** that are not included in the budget for the current fiscal year shall require approval passed at a general meeting.”

Motion: to amend the wording of Finances #4 to the new proposed wording

Put forward: Mary Drinkwater

Second: Heather Morrow

Approved unanimously

- b) Format for ongoing meetings

Due to Covid restrictions, it was generally agreed that all meetings would be held via Zoom until such time as restrictions are lifted.

Meeting adjourned.