

Weeders Meeting

May 12, 2021

President Karen Shepard welcomed us to another Zoom meeting and proceeded right to business.

Ellie Penniman moved to approve the April Minutes, seconded by Weezie Johnston; the Minutes were approved by the membership.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Treasurer's Report: Michele Bolton reminded us to send in our dues before June 1st and noted that our fiscal year ends June 30th, so anyone who has expenses to present, please get them in to her before then. There have been a few expenses and a donation to Strafford Station from the community with, currently, a surplus of about \$9,000 in the Treasury.

Finance Committee: Michele will be calling a meeting to go over the Vanguard account and other issues.

Exec Committee: Karen has called a Special Exec meeting for May 18th.

Dues and Slate: Another reminder to get our dues in on time, so it *must* be important! Karen will send out another copy of Dues and Slate in case anyone is missing it.

Philadelphia Flower Show: For complete information please see the Weeder email dated 5/10/21.

Scholarship: It has been determined that we can't give scholarships in the name of an individual, but must give in the name of an organization. This means we'll need to do a little re-writing of the Scholarship Handbook description.

GCA Annual Meeting: The winner of the Founder's Fund has been announced. It's the Rhododendron Glen, which the Weeders voted for.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Gazebo Garden: Cheryl Cheston said the garden is up and running.

She announced the tour of Weeder gardens will be held on May 25th, with a rain date of May 27th. It will include six gardens of various sizes in the Gladwyne to Villanova area, and she'll send out a flyer soon with complete information. She asked that we RSVP promptly if we're going so timing can be considered.

Archivist: Maria Thompson informed us the Historical Society is still closed to visits due to Covid, but she has access electronically. She'll be printing out records of the last ten years.

Visiting Gardens: Polly Garnett reminded us that, when traveling, and through our GCA membership, we can arrange to see other GCA members' gardens all over the country. Polly herself has taken advantage

of this benefit and has had a wonderful experience with it. Please let her know if you would like her to try to arrange a visit for you.

Awards: The Awards Committee is moving right along with its selections; some are surprises. Karen thanked Jackie Burke for taking over this job.

Christmas Sale: It was announced that the dinner won at the Auction last December will take place in the fall.

Ronald McDonald House: The group met in Ellen Pemberton's garden to make the floral arrangements, which were then taken to St. Christopher's Hospital.

Strafford Station: Alice Doering announced that the station gardens are looking good: cleaning up, weeding, cutting back and planting of containers have taken place as we move forward into the season.

Horticulture Committee: Alice said not to worry when Begonia 'Southerlandii' goes into a funk. It's just resting and will re-group.

A pruning workshop will be held Tuesday, June 15th at a site to be determined. Several Weeders volunteered their properties, so please stay tuned. The workshop will start at 9:30 and Jim Ward will be in charge.

A semi-hardwood cuttings workshop will be held in Alice's garage on Thursday, June 24th at 10:00. Please RSVP to her at amdoering@verizon.net

Conservation: Monica Church's tip of the month was to ask our dry cleaner about re-usable bags as all those plastic bags really add up. Also, the liquid hand soap we all love so much comes in plastic bottles that overwhelm the recycling system, so let's reconsider that old-time soap bar. Weezie mentioned she buys sheets of laundry soap online and there are no boxes or plastic containers to recycle. She buys 'Tru Earth' sheets.

Crazy for Containers: This year's fundraiser was another great success! We thank all who purchased plants, those who helped unload the delivery truck and with distribution to purchasers, with special thanks to Ellyn Spragins, who has done all the organizing for this event herself for the past two years. We'll be looking for help for her in the future as the job is pretty close to being monumental for just one person!

Please don't forget to respond to the Crazy for Containers survey; it's very short and will be most helpful in planning future sales. You'll find the survey in Weeder emails dated 5/10/21 and 5/11/21 (the Zoom invite).

Flower Show: Many thanks to Jeanne May and Monica Church for setting up our virtual, and judged, flower show. Jeanne announced the show will be presented via Zoom, Thursday, May 20th from 5:00 to 6:30 during the Flower Power Happy Hour! She mentioned the Judges were amazed at both Hort and Flower Design entries, calling our talent phenomenal!

Jeanes Library: Nancy Evans said they've cleared the whole front of the library which has made a big improvement in its appearance. They've been taking pictures and she hopes to get them onto the website. Taddy Dawson spoke up to say there are already pictures on the website, but she will be adding more pictures of Jeanes.

Magnolia Garden: Marilyn Sprague said the original work date there had to be delayed for a week because of rain, but a great deal was accomplished on the rain date. She thanked everyone who participated and noted there will be another work day in the fall.

Membership: Marilyn said that despite the Covid year of virtual everything, there is still interest in new Weeder membership, with several in the process now. Zoom meetings count in fulfilling the requirement to attend two meetings as a guest.

Governance: Ellie Penniman said there was some confusion about getting the March Minutes out with the Slate attached announcing the nominees for the three Secretary positions, but it's been straightened out.

Ellie also reminded Committee Chairs to make sure they get a copy of their Annual Report to Maria Thompson, Archivist, and also to President Karen and Recording Secretary Lesley.

Hull Award: Julie De Vuono announced the nomination of Howard Brosius to receive the GCA Hull Award and that it's been accepted by GCA. Through his non-profit organization, Chipping Hill Micro Farm, he teaches children about food, nutrition and gardening, taking his mobile greenhouse classroom to Head Start pre-school programs in underprivileged neighborhoods throughout Philadelphia and Montgomery Counties. The nomination process was conducted in complete secrecy and they plan to surprise him, Publishers Clearing House-style, on May 18th, when the award will be presented to him.

PCGCA: Nancy E. reported that the Fertilizer Fund is quiet now, but they're gearing up for next year. She said the Weeders had an excellent showing this year.

Photography: Melissa Bullitt said she'll send a link to the photography show, which was not judged, so we can view it. They're working on the schedule and theme for next year, and hoping that the show will be held in person.

Website: Taddy reminded us that there's lots of information on the website, but updates are needed. She hopes to find someone to help.

Hilltop House: Nancy Holmes said we started clearing out and re-doing the gardens there last year and have a good group of volunteers. Easttown Township, which owns Hilltop House, has allowed \$40,000 for updates, improvements and a garden plan. Nancy says she'll take any plant donations from our own gardens except peonies and iris as there are already too many of them. They're planning to create a four-season garden there.

Program: Nancy H. said the Annual Meeting, June 8th, will be held at Laura Carpenter's home with box lunches afterward. Those not comfortable with the in-person arrangements will be able to Zoom the meeting.

Next year's programs are all set up now, and if you signed up to be a Hostess for the current year, you'll be contacted about doing it next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Lesley Undercofler, Recording Secretary

Phoebe Driscoll introduced our speaker, Weeder Amy Freitag. When she joined The Weeders, she was working for the Fairmount Park Commission; today she lives in NYC and is Executive Director of the J. M. Kaplan Fund, whose goal is to make the environment and people's lives better. She discussed climate change and nature-based solutions, saying we can't stop the planet from heating up without allowing nature to help us, and further, without the participation and leadership of GCA. She pointed to a number of factors necessary to achieving the goal, such as: the importance of a healthy, diverse landscape; the need to conserve our forests for the carbon they sequester; the maintenance of healthy soils; closing coal-fired industries; purchasing land to be protected through a Land Trust; setting up multi-state initiatives to work together to achieve these goals; and, of course, funding. She stressed the importance of the work GCA has done in this area over a span of many years, earning for itself a well-respected, national reputation within the community of environmentalists and conservationists. Our thanks to Amy for the wonderful program she presented!