

Wollaston Garden Club Monthly Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President Anita Fasano at 7:10 p.m. She thanked head hostess Debbie Ormon and her committee consisting of Janet Lynch, Jo Costello, Ellie Cleveland, Maura O’Gara, Donna Marston, Fay Strigler, Mimi Balsamo and Lois Roche for a delicious array of desserts. A special thanks also went to Marie Ricci for stepping in as floral designer when Lori Jackson became ill. The president also suggested that people check out the horticulture exhibit, although there were not as many plants on display as usual because of the bitterly cold weather. There were 27 members and 3 guests present.

Minutes for November and December of 2015 were not available and will be provided at a later date. The president then asked the treasurer to give the December financial report as follows:

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| Beginning balance December 1, 2015----- | \$12, 281.35 |
| Income----- | \$7,983.17 |
| Income was largely due to Greens Sale (\$6,889.59) | |
| Expenses----- | \$3,610.28 |
| Expenses largely due to Greens Sale, replenishing supply of Gardening gloves to sell, web management fees. | |
| Ending Balance December 31, 2015----- | \$16, 654.24 |

The treasurer also provided a report comparing the results of the Greens Sale for the past 6 years. While income was larger in 2013 and 2014, expenses were considerably larger as well. In 2015, our goal was to keep expenses down and try to cut back on products that were not selling well. The 2015 Greens Sale was the most profitable ever, with net profits of \$5, 140.00.

The President asked if there were any committee reports. Pat Artis, Press and Publicity chair, provided copies of several of the P&P books her committee had produced in prior years so that members could review them, She indicated that they had just finished the book for 2015 and it was being sent to the GCFM, although we cannot win an award, having just won last year. She urged people to keep copies of any mention of our club in print or on websites and bring them to the meetings so that she can be collecting articles all during the year.

The president mentioned that there was an addendum to the yearbook on the table—one new member and several changes of information.

She also mentioned a GCFM project called “Save an Heirloom Plant”, and provided copies of the flyer put out by GCFM. GCFM has selected 8 heirloom plants that grow well in this area, and is encouraging clubs to “adopt” one of the plants and encourage as many members as possible to plant one in their own garden as well as to use it in civic beautification projects. Anita is looking for someone to lead this project, so please contact her if you are interested.

Fay Strigler spoke about an upcoming program at the Thomas Crane Public Library featuring Dr. Curtis Nordgaard speaking about the health hazards of living near fracked gas compressor stations like the one being planned for Weymouth, which will affect South Quincy and Germantown. This program will take place at the Library Community room at 7 p.m. on January 26. Elaine McGrail added that the compressor being discussed for Quincy would be on an 8 acre lot in Germantown, and would differ from other locations in that it’s unusual for the compressor to be set up in a small area that is densely populated. Fay and QCAP are looking for Quincy input, as Weymouth has already voiced concerns over the project.

Collen Lawler spoke about the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge, which she said will tie in to Ellen Sousa’s talk and with a National Garden Club project. She will be bringing articles with suggestions on how we can participate to future meetings.

Colleen then introduced our speaker, Ellen Sousa, whose topic, “Pollinators and Pollination, Why it Matters” addresses what it means to have a pollinator friendly landscape. Ellen has written a book, *The Green Garden*, and has donated an autographed copy to the club for our library.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.