Trailwood Garden Club

November 13, 2017

Minutes of Monthly Meeting

Gloria Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

The club welcomed a visitor, Barbara, a friend of Carol Merritt. Barbara is a long-time Plymouth resident interested in learning more about low-maintenance landscaping; she is a prospective new member of the group.

Gloria noted that several members had assisted with the historical museum decorating, and discussed the Sun & Snow planter.

No member concerns were expressed.

Ben Kasmenn, manager of Gateway Farm, was the guest speaker. Gateway Farm is a start-up organic facility located on the site of the former Arbor-Joy driving range in western Plymouth Township. The goal is to supply high-quality produce to the area and to farm in a way that conserves beneficial soil structure and organisms. So far, three acres are in production and Kasmenn expects that to grow this year. About eight people are employed full- or part-time at the farm. Gateway is partnering with the new restaurant planned for the site of the old Lord Fox in Dixboro, to provide produce, and participates in a local wholesale flower market. Kasmenn said Gateway again in 2018 will operate a farm stand selling fresh vegetables beginning in May or June. He’s working on organizing classes for the general public, as well, to be held in the on-site barn.

After a break, Gloria resumed the business meeting:

* Trailwood has renewed donated subscriptions for the Plymouth District Library to Fine Gardening, Garden Gate and Horticulture magazines for an annual total of $72.
* The club paid $80 for the tree in Kellogg Park (since decorated by Elba, Ruta and Cathryn - many thanks!)
* Thanks to Barb Bray for hosting a newcomers gathering in October
* A sign-up sheet was circulated for the food contributions to the Dec. 12 holiday party at the home of Shelley Hansen.
* Sally Lemus moved that the club contribute $100 to purchase condiments, paper products and beverages for the party; the motion was approved.
* Jeannie Hutko will coordinate the Pennies for Friendship drive this year
* Fall into the Garden, despite being held on a cold Nov. 4, generated about $390 for the club and make nearly 20 new contacts for our e-news list and prospective members.
* A possible Spring into the Garden event is being pondered, with another treasures sale and the sale of Garden Walk tickets.
* About 350 email addresses provided by guests of past garden walk(s) has been obtained.
* Daffodil Day is April 10, advance tickets are $38. Please let Marilyn know in December if you would like to attend; she will aggregate the payments and forward to the organizers.
* The first planning meeting for the 2018 Garden Walk will be held on January 9 at 6 p.m. at the Plymouth District Library. We are short several gardens for the traditional walk; alternatives will be considered. All are welcome to attend this meeting.
* Marie updated the events page for the Trailwood binder and provided a new membership list
* Gloria noted that a formal audit of Trailwood finances will be conducted by Marilyn and Marie
* Hostesses Barb and Mary Ellen were thanked for the refreshments.

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Melissa Preddy