

**KENSINGTON GARDEN CLUB
70th ANNIVERSARY MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18, 2025**

President, Peggy LaJoie, called the meeting to order at 5:40PM. She asked for a moment of silence to honor our members and friends with personal issues.

President, LaJoie, reminded everyone of our Facebook page and asked that we share it with our friends. Also reminded us that there is a members only page. From our page you can go the the Federated Garden Club page. This year if you are planning to attend the FGCCT October Awards luncheon, on Oct. 22, you will have to register directly with the Federated Garden Club and pay on line at their site.

Program: Nancy Drain reporting: Next month we will have a make and take called “crafty Pumpkin” Please sign up so they know how much material to buy. Garden club aprons are for sale for \$12.00 See Nancy to buy one.

Treasurer's report: Diane Roncaioli reporting. End of August checking balance is \$6,714.00. We have received donation from the Berlin Land Trust (\$75) and Marjorie Moore Foundation (\$313) Our money market account as of Sept 1 is \$24, 265) She said annual interest on the money market account was \$967.

Ways and Means Committee (Dottie Fox) She thanked all for their help at the Berlin Fair Booth and came to workshops. Thanked Lori Zisk for all her hard work in organizing everything for the fair booth. We made \$1, 532/71. The new credit card system worked well.

Reminder to all: If you find a bargain on Halloween things at the end of the season, please buy for next years sale.

Corresponding Secretary Donna DeSimone: read thank you notes from a few people including Marjorie Moore Foundation.

Debbi Wright reported on the cleaning up of the Marjorie Moore Bird Sanctuary: 15 volunteers came from Eversource to help with the clean up

(Debbi's report)

Late Spring approached by BHS. Cleanup behind the fence scheduled 7/8,

Thanks to Peggy Lopes for her work on the hottest day of the year.

Pics didn't make it to web or Facebook and will share them.

Next steps, purchase and planting native plants for birds.

Applied for a grant from Eversource, Eversource low on funds, advised me to apply in 2026.

Dogwood tree parched and started weekly watering.

Work this summer pulling weeds and tree saplings

Thank you to Mary Ann Massirio for donation of Wren House

Bonnie McNair & Dottie Fox donations of bird houses

Current team: : Paula, Betsy and Peggy and I
working on a planting plan for the front garden
Who has the MMBS book?

Publicity Committee Cyndi McKinnon: Have been putting things on Facebook and in the paper. Please send photos for web-site

Membership Priscilla Esernia: 44 members present and 2 guests. We have had 2 resignations (Jeannie Zarcone and Anne Dygus) We installed our newest member Cindy DiPerdomincio.

President, LaJoie, commented on all our projects around town, saying they are looking good. Thanks to all the members who worked on Little People's Playground. She also said that Chris Edge is looking for ideas for painting on the benches (concerning the history of Berlin) that are being purchased.

Hospitality Committee: thanked the board members for providing the food for tonight's meeting

Mary Ann Massirio's & Mary Kathryn LaRose report

America 250 Commission

This Commission was formed to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Several activities are being planned for 2026, and we will let you know as they come up.

One activity is a scavenger hunt of historical places in town. Mary Kathryn LaRose volunteered to organize that and is looking for ideas and volunteers. Please email Mary Kathryn if you have any sites in mind or would like to help. The garden club is also planning and decorating a showcase at the library. The artistic committee can also use your ideas. Please email them to Mary Kathryn or Kim Ferraguto.

Dottie Fox offered to let the America250 Commission use one of our tables and some space next to our booth on Friday at the Berlin Fair.

Kate Wall, Berlin Town Clerk, and Carrie Tyszka from the library sold tee shirts, sweatshirts and hats with the logo chosen from an America250 contest recently held. Anyone wishing to buy this apparel can go to the town clerk's office at the Berlin Town Hall.

Boutique: Diane R reporting. To be held at the library on Dec 6. Rosemary Deming and Holly Kevorkian are chairs with her. This year they are doing wreaths, bake sale, live plants and a raffle.

Three more workshops to be held next week. Please sign up to help out.

The Saturday before Halloween is "Trunk and Treat" around town, Peggy asked if anyone is

interested in doing this.

The town will be doing painting, air conditioning and heating of our club house. Also putting in a bathroom. We need to clean out the first floor for so they can start.

New Business

Carolyn Neely asked that we do our meetings on Zoom. Many older members can't drive at night anymore but would still like to attend. Peggy said we are working on this matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Following the meeting a presentation was given by Dottie Fox on the history of our 70 years of existence. Bert Kryztopik and Dottie had done the research on our activities and programs through the years. It was well received.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Welz
Secretary