

Worcester Garden Club Conservation Roundtable Meeting September 14, 2016

Welcome: Deb Cary, Nancy Jeppson, Val Loring, Mickie Nelson, Donna Williams, Nancy Wilson

Roundtable 2016-2017 Meetings (Handout) ACTION: See changes below**

WGC Website (Handouts)

- Changes/Additions; Issues/programs in the area; Organization of Information; Donna's pollinator brochure?

The Roundtable felt that the information and website needs to be updated and reorganized: deleting web links that are defunct; creating consistent left hand columns throughout the Conservation web pages; updating the Roundtable introduction page for 2016-2017; consolidating the Pollinator Project materials (description is now on home page; case statement on Horticulture page; and missing Pollinator brochure). **ACTION:** Donna will review and edit the web pages and work with Kim Cutler this fall; **ACTION:** Nancy W. will e-mail Cindy Pitcher about the Pollinator Project (status of project; where on website (its own tab or in Conservation and/or with a link in Conservation projects); support from Roundtable)

Programming 2016-2017 (Handout)

- Blue Space suggestion from last year

There doesn't appear to be a program to add to this year. The group decided that with the dire water situation and the City's commitment to blue spaces and water issues, the focus of the Roundtable and our meetings this year will be: *Blue Spaces Series: All Things Water*. The locations of the meetings will not change, but there will be a speaker or focus on water issues: November (Drinking Water with Deb Cary w/ trip to reservoir after meeting); January (the new Worcester Resources staff person invited to speak—name of topic TBD); March (Water Conservation and Drought Resistant Gardening w/ trip to a blue space TBD); May (Coes Pond and/or Beaver Brook either before or after meeting). **ACTION: Donna will draft a handout for 9/19 general meeting listing the upcoming Roundtable meetings with the blue space/water focus with Deb editing and adding programming content. **ACTION:** Nancy J. will speak to Sarah R. about time on agenda.

Programming 2017-2018

- Sarah Lenis's report to Board wanting to collaborate with other Committees for general programs.

The Roundtable would like a program, possibly on Blue Spaces, for April of 2018. The fall of 2017 might be a good time for a general meeting with a pollinator focus. **ACTION:** Nancy J. will contact Program chairs to reserve date and invite to a Roundtable meeting.

Upcoming Meetings

- Conservation/NAL committee members—September 14, 2016 @ The Country Club (Sarah Ribeiro attending) **ACTION:** Invite Sarah R. to November Roundtable meeting to give a report.
- Zone I Club Conservation Chair meeting November 1, 2016 @ THBG **ACTION:** Both Nancys plan to attend and will report back.
- NAL Conference February 27-March 2, 2017 **ACTION:** Nancy J. plans to attend; the Roundtable will be asked first for second spot, followed by general members.

Pollinator Project (Updates/meetings). **ACTION:** Nancy W. will contact Cindy Pitcher.

Discussion of Issues Important to WGC/GCA/Roundtable

- Centennial of the National Parks (share on website) (Handout) **ACTION:** This will be added by Donna and Deb to handout for 9/19 general meeting.
- Other Issues: The Roundtable needs new members. Nancy W. stated that at the Zone 1 meeting she attended, it was mentioned that Conservation drives most NE garden clubs. The group agreed that this is not the case in our club. Discussion ensued with reasons ranging from a lack of focus to the Roundtable meetings to the membership makeup. The group felt that current members might be attracted to attend the Roundtable with programming and a focus at each meeting (this would be accomplished with the proposed Blue Spaces Series and a handout at the general meeting). The group also mentioned that when new members are considered or proposed, those with a conservation interest/history might be considered. **ACTION:** Nancy J. will talk to Sarah R.

Next Roundtable Meetings: November 9 (Sue Durham); January 11 (Deb Cary-BMB)

The Committee thanks Val Loring for a wonderful lunch and beautiful setting!