



Russell and District Horticultural Society meeting

Location: Marionville Community Centre

May 20, 2024

1. Welcome, New members, exits and washrooms.

Louise Houle greeted all attendees, identified washroom facilities as well as exits.

2. Acceptance of minutes of April 15, 2024 meeting.

Moved by Cindy Anderson and accepted by Diane Sharp.

3. Reports from committees.

- **Library Liaison** – Cindy recapped the ‘adopt a book’ initiative where RDHS donates \$100 yearly to the library for the purchase of horticultural themed books. About 6 books were chosen - 2 children and 4 adult books. The librarians will review the suggested books.
- **Community Garden** – The library provides oversight; however, volunteers to maintain this garden are always welcome. Please contact Isabelle **who?** if interested.
- **High School Bursaries** – Marilyn provides oversight for this program. Although not present at the meeting, she did inform RDHS that that \$250 will be awarded to 1 student from Russell High School and 1 student from St. Thomas Aquinas High School that will take on horticultural based studies following graduation.

- **May Plant Sale** – RDHS made over \$2,000 from the plant sale. Louise thanked everyone on behalf of RDHS who contributed plants and items for this event and to all the volunteers who helped out throughout the morning. Louise reminded everyone to log their hours of volunteer work associated with any aspect of this plant sale. Louise has plants available to anyone interested for \$10 for 3 plants (possibly more) at her home. Just bring a shovel and some energy along with you on either May 22, 24 or 25. Make sure to contact Louise for location and to set up a time. *Note:* a wallet was found during the sale. Regrettably there was no contact information. Please contact Linda should you know who the owner may be. A notice of this discovery will be identified on the website.
- **Recap on Flower Show Preparation Workshop** – The workshop held on May 4 was well received and there may be a similar workshop held in the Fall. Each attendee received a book detailing elements presented that day.
- **Workshops** – Members who have signed up in advance to attend any upcoming workshops and have yet to pay are encouraged to contact Louise as prepayment secures their spot. There are a few spots still available for the **Glass on Glass** workshop on July 10.
- **Garden Tour** - Louise, continues to look for interesting gardens to visit and would appreciate any input on proposed hosts. The garden tour is scheduled for Saturday, August 17th.
- **Day trips** - Chris Lanthier is overseeing day trips and signup sheets are available at the monthly meetings. Details are identified on page 15 of the 2024 Yearbook. Rideau Woodland Ramble is scheduled for Friday, June 21st, Maitland Garden of Hope is scheduled for Thursday, July 18th, and Ferguson Tree Nursery trip date in September has yet to be finalized.
- **Membership – Yearbook** - Hope everyone has had the chance to check out this year's yearbook. If a member has not received a hard copy of the yearbook, please see Linda. To date, RDHS has 128 members.

- **2024 AGM Miscellaneous**- Gloucester Horticultural Society forgot to bring along a prize to this event. Linda has the name of the winner and she will contact her and let her know to get in touch with Candace Dressler.
- **RDHS Income Statement** – Interim statement for year ending May 20 was made available to members. Manja provided a brief overview. RDHS is doing well. The interim statement did not identify tree sales of \$500 nor the amounts received for any workshops to date.
- **MacDougal Park Maintenance Contract & Partnership** – Grace and Pegi have been keeping abreast of any new developments regarding the ground maintenance relationship between Beyond the House, RDHS and Township. RDHS received funding of \$2,000 to upkeep the park. Grace & Pegi met with Kevin from the Township and discussed various items that need attention such as the replacement of trees on the west side of the park; replacement of vegetation emptied at the corner for drainage work, upkeep of beds, etc. Cindy Cluett of Beyond the House along with Township are considering allotting a crew to attend to this maintenance. There are now 4 electrical outlets available for use. Areas will be seeded and picnic tables (round tables with benches attached and accessible) are to be installed. Garbage disposals will also be put in place and township will take care of maintaining them.
- **RDHS Inventory Checklist** – It was agreed that RDHS should maintain an inventory checklist of items and their location. Christine is keeping this spreadsheet up to date and anyone who may have any items to be included, please let her know. *Note*: two plant sale signs were left at the sale on Saturday and Louise picked them up on closing. There are some signs for the plant sale that indicate a start time of 8 a.m. If you have any signs in your possession indicating this start time, please modify to 9 a.m.

4. Reminders of upcoming events.

- **June Flower Show** schedule is outlined on pages 16 & 17 of the Yearbook. This is the 'big' one! *Note*: Rules and regulations regarding flower show entries, etc. are available on the website.

- **Upcoming day trip to Rideau Woodland Ramble** – Friday, June 21 at 10 a.m. Rideau Woodland Ramble is located near Merrickville. Interested members should contact Chris Lanthier for sign up.
- **Garden Tour** – Saturday, August 17 from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you have never attended one of these garden tours, you should consider it! Further details will be forthcoming.
- **RiverOak** – Trevor from RiverOak known for its skating trails in winter provided a synopsis on **SORS** (School of Rural Skills). He is hosting classes at this farm this summer and on June 8 will have an open house to introduce this program. RiverOak is located at 2900 York's Corners Road. More info available at riveroak.ca
- **Russell Ringers Handbell Choir** – will be busking across from the Russell Post Office on June 8 commencing at 2 p.m. Weather date – June 9.
- **Pollinator Appreciation Day** - June 8 at Fletcher Wildlife Garden, Prince of Wales Drive, from 10 a.m – 2 p.m. A variety of experts will be on hand to share information and answer questions.

5. Sign ups & volunteers.

- Sign-up sheets for various events where volunteers are requested will be made available at the monthly meetings; however, members can touch base with Louise at any time.

6. Presentation of Speaker.

Kathy introduced Christina Enright *aka* The Monarch Lady who had a wonderful presentation on planting for bees and butterflies. She shared that lots of areas in the community have embraced this initiative and are using native plants more & more. Christina's email address is Christinaenr@gmail.com.

Thank you those who brought snacks for everyone to enjoy. Next and last meeting before the summer break is on Monday, June 17 where we will have the 2024 June

Flower Show and guest speaker Judith Cox on 'Gardening for Continuous Joy' will be presenting.

Minutes prepared by Christine Bourgeois, Secretary