

Minutes for the board meeting on March 19, 2025

Present: George Costa, Helen Gao, Lorraine Leacock, Nancy Lynch, Mary Winn-Ball, Tania Entwistle

Recorder: Helen Gao

Vincent Simeone's presentation, *Great Gardens of the World*, was very well received. About 35 people attended this meeting.

- The current spending is not sustainable. We need to increase income and/or reduce spending. Below are the possibilities analyzed in the meeting:
 - Increase membership by advertising in local newspapers, garden stores, libraries and other organizations. Tania will work with Kathy to create a sample flyer. Kathy may create a Membership Committee. In the next group meeting, soliciting ideas from members regarding how to make our club more visible.
 - Have a Super Raffle when members can purchase items like gardening tools. Meetings in August and December are candidates for such an event. George volunteered to organize this event.
 - Have a Prized Plant Sale when members can purchase plants donated by other members. Meetings in August and December are candidates for such an event. Judy and Helen volunteered to organize this event.
 - Create income through occasions like organized trips and a photo contest. For example, have a special raffle for companion tickets for the Planting Field guided tour.
 - Encourage donations of food items in the monthly meeting to reduce the expenses on food and drink. Note: Tania donated today's hospitality expense. Helen donated the raffle items. Nancy and other members donated food items.
 - Give a one year honorary membership to speakers as a token of gratitude. This may also increase the visibility of the club. Will ask Judy to create a certificate of honorary membership.
 - Change the regular meeting venue from the Holtsville Wildlife & Ecology Center to the Medford Public Library. This library is centrally located as well as free to use. We can book it well in advance.
 - Invite Master Gardeners to speak in our meeting. Some Master Gardeners provide this service free of charge as a fulfillment of their volunteering hours.
 - Increase the membership due in 2026 to \$35 per person or \$50 per couple. This will be the first increase in more than six years. This will take effect in November 2025.
 - Ways to encourage members to include LIMG in their estate planning:
 - Provide useful information on our website
 - Pay the LIMG website due annually instead of every three years.
- Meeting schedule for the rest of 2025
 - April 16 - Invasive Plants by Mina Vescera

- May 21 - Seed Sowing by Kathy Vandyke
- June 18 - Will begin registration for the carpool and guided tour to the Planting Field Arboretum as soon as possible. The fee for the Planting Field guided tour is \$10 per person.
- July 16 - Morden Tools by Bill Leacock presents. Lorraine will follow up.
- August 20 - Annual picnic at Post Morrow. George will follow up with Super Sale. Encourage members to donate items for the sale.
- September 17 - Bulb Planting by George Costa. Helen: Have a bulb sale to increase income?
- October 15 - Meeting in Bayport Flower Houses.
- November 19 - See also the options for the May meeting.
- December - Holiday party. Super Sale and/or Prized Plant Sale. George, Judy and Helen will follow up.