Paxton, MA Garden Club

PO Box 92, Paxton MA 01612 | paxtongardenclub01612@gmail.com
www.paxtongardenclub.com

Regular Open Meeting Agenda
September 8, 2026

Call to order general club meeting

- The fall business meeting (Meeting #2 of the year) was called to order at 6:08 PM, 26 members present

Moment of Silence in honor of member Deb Ford

- The club acknowledged the passing of dedicated member **Deb Ford** shortly after the July meeting.
- A condolence thank-you note from her family was read, appreciating the sympathy card and naming the Educator Grant after her.
- Mary Baker: The hanging baskets of ivy plants displayed near the door entrance that belonged to Deb, and members were informed they could adopt them.

Educator Grant Subcommittee Update

- The Educator Grant subcommittee (Mary, Patty, Sarah, and Kathy) reviewed 2 applications for the 2026 annual grant. This year's winner is Ed Dame,PCS 6th grade teacher. He received $498.
- Mr. Dame briefly shared project plans focusing on school programming, expanding growing areas, soil conditioning, and planting crops like garlic and irises.
- We took a 5 minute break for snacks and photos

Consent Item(s)

- A motion to approve the Business Meeting meetings from 7/14/26 1st by Donmarie Senspanik and 2nd by Kathy Lucey
- A motion to approve the FY25-26 Annual Report motioned by 1st by Donmarie Senspanik and 2nd by Kathy Lucey

Accounting of club finances

Erik Skinner updated the members on the club finances. Our *Balances as of September 1, 2026:*

- Checking Account: $6,830.27 (with $1,500.38 set aside for required operating expenses).
- Beautification Account *(formerly Community Services)*: $2,992.00.
- Educator Grant Account: $3,072.00 (reflects the recent $498 payout).

- Community Garden Account: $20,361.05

2026 Summer Floral Fridays:

- Running for 13 weeks and made $641 (as of 9/7). The last week is Friday 9/11
- We had 111 arrangements made by 13 members & 2 nonmembers (thank you!)
- This year there was lots of local competition - farm stands, markets etc., so we did not do quite as well as the past two years (2025: $765. 2024: $892).

Discussion on how to appropriate the funds:

- Allocate $250.00 as a gift to Richards Memorial Library (RML) for their 100th Anniversary. Motion made by Sandy Hautanen and 2nd by Anne Edgington. Unanimously passed.
- Allocate the Remaining Balance of $391.05 (plus the proceeds from the final upcoming Floral Friday) to the Beautification Account for town common plantings and repairs. Motion by Roger McGaughey and 2nd by Mary Baker.Unanimously passed.

Subcommittee Brief Updates:

Beautification (Watering/Weeding Crew): Roger McGaughey

- Roger went over the beautification, spoke of the town hall however not happening till spring time.

Community Garden: Karen Gearin www.paxtongardenclub.com/about-usjoin/community-garden

- We received the $10K check from Fidelity Bank (thank you!)
- Our Farmers Markets have been fabulous so far! The last one is September 10th 3:30 PM – 6:30 PM. We need floral donations for arrangements.
- We will be doing the Doug Caves yART Sale, making floral arrangements (think flower bar) as a fundraiser to support this on Sat., Sept. 12th.
- Tracy S. signed us up for the Klems Cares event on Sept. 12th. Mention our code and we will get 10% of the purchase

Educator Grant: Mary Baker

- The Committee met in August and unanimously agreed to rename the Educator grant to the "Deb Ford Memorial PMAGC Educator Grant" in honor of Deb who was a dedicated member, avid gardener and life long learner. www.paxtongardenclub.com/about-usjoin/pmagc-educator-grant

Grants/Fundraising: Robin Tasca

- We need to get this committee back to meeting on a regular basis via Zoom.
- We are also looking for more members. Currently its Robin, Kathy & Scott Dow and Martha A.
- Indoor Plant Sale: November 28 – December 23. Members are encouraged to propagate houseplants now. Target revenue average is ~$1,500.

Nominating - need members Robin Tasca

- This committee was created at the Spring 3/10/26 Business meeting to help find the executive board member nominations for the election every two years at the annual meeting in May.
- The Executive board are 4 members on a 2-year cycle. Current term expires 2028
- We desperately need volunteers for this committee!

Programming: Ceceila Thurber

- 6 programs have taken place to date with 138 attendees.
- Current budget stands at $4,681 with anticipated expenses of $3,565.

Upcoming Programs: https://www.paxtongardenclub.com/programsevents/upcoming-programs

1. Last Farmers Market of Season: September 10, 3:30 PM – 6:30 PM. Needs floral donations for arrangements.
2. Autumn Art Show Booth: September 12–13, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM. Free booth hosted at local artist's yard; volunteer shifts open online for arranging and selling flowers.
3. Chocolate Lecture: Guest speaker John from Stuart Chocolates on Thursday, September 24 at 6:30 PM.
4. Flower Show: 2-day format with later drop-off times; theme is books written in the 1920s with no formal judging categories. Five entries registered so far. Oct. 2 & 3
5. Holiday Gathering: Scheduled for December 6th

Open Forum: Activities, Questions, Concerns, Ideas etc.

- Ann Edgington spoke about the upcoming Leicester Harvest Fair, there will be soil testing,
- Roger mentioned creating a bed around each stump and planters on the Common. Peter McKone said he would take a look at the area and see.

Next meeting date - Winter Business Meeting Jan 12, 2027

- Robin suggested having it as a Zoom only meeting vs hybrid which has been tricky. All members present agreed

Door Prize winners:

- Mystery Gift - Julie Dubuque
- Tote Bag - Ann McDougle
- Christmas cards/Stickers - Todd Robbins
- Bulb Planter - Jerry Edgington
- Mystery Gift - Cecilia Thurber
- Bulb Auger - Karen Gearin
- Reusable Bird Feed Bag - Tracy Sassaville
- Christmas Gift Set - Mary Baker
- Spider Plant - Sharon DeBonis
- Mystery Gift - Johanna Moquin
- Mystery Gift - Jane Arntz
- Machete Knife - Nancy Wilby

Thank you Todd Robbins for being tonight's greeter!

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Submitted by Julie Dubuque, PMAGC Secretary

DRAFT