



**Coastal Gardeners Executive Board Meeting
Millville By the Sea
December 8, 2025
Meeting Minutes**

President Michele Crane convened the meeting.

- Member Mary Kunst works with the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs on promoting gardening activities to youth. She reported that the DFGC is encouraging clubs to find ways to do this, which initiated some discussion at the meeting. Mary indicated that she is meeting with DFGC President Alva Hutchison soon regarding this.
- The DFGC has issued another “Centerpiece Challenge” for the April meeting.
- Michele opened a discussion concerning ideas for using club funds to help pay for members to attend the annual DFGC conference in the summer.

Treasurer Linda Barbour provided a summary of current club transactions
Transactions since October meeting

Check	Date	Description	Project	Transaction	Balance
		Balance Forward		\$0.00	\$7475.91
#798	10/20/2025	S. Daniels	OCC	-\$566.71	\$6909.20
#799	10/20/2025	M. Crane-refreshments	Social	-\$50.28	\$6858.92
#800	10/20/2025	R. Boggs-DFGC basket		-12.98	\$6845.94

Committee reports

Newsletter

- Pat Rainer requested that members send pictures of their holiday wreaths for the newsletter.

Beebe Pots

- Pat reported that a new sign up for taking care of the pots is now on the club website.
- Pat will find out whether the outside water/irrigation is turned off for the winter.

Linda Barbour discussed expectations for club “buddies”, and would like to get some input from members regarding the effectiveness of our “buddy” system.

HFHK

- Mary K. reported that she will be closing the gardens at Phillip Showell Elementary on Wednesday, December 10.
- The school will be taking care of the irrigation for the gardens going forward.
- PSES wants to use the gardens for wildflowers rather than vegetables. More details will be forthcoming.

Social

- Janet Green reported that the survey results are being reviewed.

Adopt a Highway

- Jackie Dietrich reported that she will have some dates soon for upcoming cleanups.

Awards

- Cathy Veale reported that an application for an award for OCC will be submitted following the completion of the project for the year.

Operation Christmas Cheer

- Sandy Daniels reported that the proceeds from our “Sip-n-Shop” event in November are between \$2300-\$2400 so far; we are still awaiting checks from some of the participating businesses.
- Club members will be preparing the MBTS clubhouse on Monday for our “bag filling day” which takes place on Tuesday, December 16th.

Fundraising

- Michele reported that \$260 was made from the raffle at the recent Dine and Donate event at The Station restaurant. She is waiting to receive the proceeds from the event itself.
- There was discussion about possible ideas for fundraising, such as Dine and Donate events, and gift wrapping at events during the holidays.

At this point in the meeting, there was discussion regarding the need for members to connect with their new member “buddies” to encourage participation in events.

Nominating

- There was discussion regarding possible upcoming nominations for committee chairs.
- Terry Czerwinski suggested that members who are on committees or projects try to have their “buddies” be part of that so they become familiar with club activities.

Discussion continued concerning the following topics:

- Sue Jordan suggested that someone act as a greeter at the door at meetings, especially to welcome new members who may not be familiar with everyone.
- It was noted that the club needs a current list of all the committee and project chairs which would be available on the club website.
- Michele reported that at the recent meeting for the state garden club presidents, some presidents noted that their clubs have raised dues. It was noted that a change in dues would need to be voted upon by members. A discussion followed; some of the points debated included :
 - whether there is a need to raise our dues
 - the need to have reserve funds available for future projects and/or in anticipation of rising costs in general
 - saving money by lowering amount budgeted for some line items
 - our club has maintained dues at \$40 for years, and an increase is not unwarranted
- Some suggestions for fundraising were discussed, such as: selling small plants for Mothers' Day/plant exchange/ hot dog and bake sale like last year around July 4th/selling holiday wreaths. There was discussion with some members questioning the need to raise money with our current amount of club funds, and others expressing a desire to have extra funds available to offset rising prices.
- Bev Boies discussed the timing of a possible hot dog /bake sale in July
- Michele proposed looking into getting a table at Rehobeth Farmers Market to sell plants.

At this point, Michele adjourned the meeting.

The next Executive Board Meeting is scheduled for February 23, and is for officers only.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Veale