

BYLAWS OF THE EASTON GARDEN CLUB

REVISED OCTOBER 6, 2011

ARTICLE I EASTON GARDEN CLUB

The name of this organization shall be the “Easton Garden Club” whose fiscal year is July 1 to June 30.

ARTICLE II OBJECT

The object of the club shall be to advance and encourage the education of gardening, study of horticulture, floriculture and landscape architecture and the protection and conservation of natural resources and to promote civic beauty and roadside improvement in the Town of Easton.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

The membership is open to all Easton residents and to non-residents whose town does not have a Federated Club. The non-resident members may not exceed 25% of the total club membership. In keeping with the club’s objectives, all members are encouraged to be active, in order to maintain a working club.

There are four categories of membership: Active, Senior Active, Inactive and Patron.

The prospective Active Member must attend an initial club meeting and must be sponsored by a member of at least one year’s duration. The Membership Chairperson may also sponsor an applicant. A written application must be completed and submitted with the dues payment to the Membership Chairperson. Such application will be voted upon at the next Board Meeting, after which time the Membership Chairperson will notify the applicant of the decision.

Application for Senior Active, Patron or Inactive will be reviewed by the Membership Chairperson and if determined that it meets the criteria the recommendation will go before a Board Meeting for approval. Their status will be converted at the beginning of the club year, which is July 1st. No conversions to Senior Active or Patron will occur during the club year; however, an Active member may convert to Inactive status at any time.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

Section 1

The officers of this club shall be a President, a 1st Vice President, a 2nd Vice President, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer and a Corresponding Secretary.

Section 2

The President Shall:

- 1. Preside at all meetings of the club and of the Executive Board.**
- 2. Be a member Ex-Officio of all committees except the Nominating Committee.**
- 3. Appoint special committees as needed.**
- 4. Fill any vacancy in an elective office except that of President for the unexpired term, with the approval of the Executive Board.**

Section 3

The Vice-Presidents shall assist the President in all work of the Easton Garden Club. The Vice-Presidents shall head a committee and will schedule all Board Meetings and arrange monthly programs, subject to the approval of the Board. In the absence of the President the Vice-Presidents shall perform all the duties of the office. In the event of the resignation or removal of the President, the 1st Vice President shall become President and hold office until the next annual meeting.

Section 4

The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of each Club Meeting and Executive Board Meeting.

Section 5

The Corresponding Secretary shall have charge of the correspondence of the Club.

Section 6

The Treasurer will collect and hold all funds belonging to the Club, including dues, and shall deposit them in a designated bank. Shall pay all bills upon approval of the President and the member incurring the bill and shall present a statement of funds at each meeting to the Club. An auditor shall be appointed by the President to audit the Treasurer's books before the annual meeting.

ARTICLE V BOARD

Section 1

The Executive Board shall consist of all six Officers. They shall be empowered to transact any business which needs immediate attention between the regular meetings of the Board. The Executive Board shall be the enforcing body of the bylaws.

Section 2

The Executive Board and Standing Committees shall meet in advance of the General Meetings to conduct necessary club business.

ARTICLE VI STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1

There shall be standing committees whose Chairperson will be approved at the Annual Meeting. Committees may be created or dissolved as necessary. These Chairpersons shall keep a "Record Book" of their year's activity to leave for their succeeding Chairperson. They shall also be responsible to submit the Record Book as an "end of the year report" to the President before the Annual Meeting.

- a. Awards Chairperson**
- b. Conservation Chairperson**
- c. Exhibits Chairperson**
- d. Garden Therapy Chairperson**
- e. Garden Walks Chairperson**
- f. Historian Chairperson**
- g. Horticulture Chairperson**
- h. Hospitality Chairperson**

- i. **Membership Chairperson**
- j. **Newsletter Chairperson**
- k. **Publicity Chairperson**
- l. **Village Improvement Chairperson**
- m. **Ways and Means Chairperson**

ARTICLE VII NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1

The Nominating Committee shall consist of five (5) members to include the immediate past President, the 1ST Vice President, the Membership Chairperson and two (active status) members from the general membership. The immediate past President shall serve as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. The two active members shall be chosen by the Chairman and should be members in good standing. The members of this committee shall be chosen by December. The term of the Nominating Committee shall run from January 1 till the annual elections are held. The Nominating Committee shall inform the board no later than May 1ST a slate of candidates, consisting of one candidate for each vacant office. The Executive Board shall present the slate of candidates to the membership at the May General Meeting.

Section 2

- 1. If there is only one (1) nominee for each office by vote of the club the Recording Secretary shall cast one ballot for the entire slate.**
- 2. Should there be more than one (1) nominees or any position, the general membership will vote for one nominee.**

Section 3

No member shall serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same office except by approval of the Nominating Committee and by vote of the General Membership at the annual meeting. If there are no objections the Recording Secretary will cast one (1) vote.

ARTICLE VIII MEETINGS

Section 1

Nine monthly meetings shall be held on the second Thursday evening from September through June, excluding December. The date of the meetings may be changed at the discretion of the Executive Board.

Section 2

The Conservation Meeting shall be an open meeting.

Section 3

A club member may bring a guest to one meeting, excluding a club subsidized workshop meeting. The same guest may not attend more than one meeting per club year.

Section 4

At any General Meeting, one-third of the active members present shall constitute a quorum. One-third of the Executive Board present shall be a quorum at a Board Meeting.

Section 5

The Annual Meeting shall be held in June. At this meeting the annual reports shall be given, elections held and any necessary business conducted.

ARTICLE IX PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in "Robert's Rules of Order," revised shall govern this Club in all cases when they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the by-laws.

ARTICLE X NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Easton Garden Club shall not permit in their conduct of Club affairs, any restrictions or limitations what-so-ever based upon race, color, creed, gender, national origin or employment status.

ARTICLE XI

DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution, all of the remaining assets and property of the organization shall, after payment of necessary expenses, be distributed to such organizations as shall qualify under Section 501C (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent Federal Tax Laws or to the Federal Government, a State or Local Government for public purpose, subject to the approval of a court of competent jurisdiction within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS

These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote OF MEMBERS PRESENT at any General Meeting, provided that the proposed amendment has been read at the previous regular meeting and/or sent to each member eligible to vote at least fourteen (14) days before the meeting.