The Mt. Airy Clay Breakers Garden Club met at 1:00 p.m., September 13, 2017, at the home of Gilda Allen. There were 17 members and 2 guests, Norma Hill, Linda’s friend from New Mexico and Louise, a friend of Gilda’s.

Program: Esther Mitchell, P.G. County Master Gardener, gave a talk on companion planting. Two examples are Borage, which deters tomato horn worms and the flowers are edible and the plant adds minerals to the soil and Zinnias are a natural Japanese beetle trap.

The meeting was opened with birthday wishes for Elaine Arnold and Arminta Donovan. Also a thank you to Deborah Determan for designing the year book.

Horticulture: Esther Neckere brought fresh sage from her garden and Gilda Allen had zinnias from her garden.

Corresponding Secretary: Iona Black to send a thank you note to Esther Mitchell for the excellent program Elaine Arnold read a thank you note from Ann Williams for the invitation to the anniversary dinner.

Treasurer’s report: Julies Harrison presented the annual financial report on behalf of Pat Hall. The balance as of August 31, 2017 is $230.95. A request was made at the meeting that due to the depletion of funds in our account, members might consider making a donation to the club.

Ways and Means: Dot Lowry proposed the idea of selling bulbs as a fundraiser, she presented a flier and stated the club would receive half of the proceeds. A motion was made and seconded to sell the bulbs and it was approved unanimously.

Conservation: Elaine Arnold discussed water conservation. In the article that she read, some of the ideas were not letting the tap run while brushing your teeth, repair all plumbing leaks and boiling only the amount of water needed and if any water left save it for watering plants.

Membership: Elaine Arnold will invite Esther Mitchell, program speaker, to the next meeting and to become a member.

Design: Connie Dalpra will be attending the flower show and report on any new flower show rules at the next meeting.

Horticulture: Diana Morse discussed amending the soil by beneficial creatures, such as: earth worms, insects and arthropods. She also discussed composting “feeding the soil and not the plant”. Gilda suggested having a soil scientist as a speaker for a program next year.

OLD BUSINESS

Deborah Determan gave a talk on the website, explaining how to sign in and maneuver through the site.

Esther Neckere passed around the Arbor House volunteer sign-up sheet.

The District I Meeting will be September 25th at 10:00 a.m. and we will be receiving an award.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m. with the drawing of the 50/50. The 50/50 was won by Julie Harrison and she donated the $13. to the club.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Bishop

Recording Secretary