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CONSTITUTION

AND

BY-LAWS

OF THE

Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

Adopted July 3, 1875.



BOSTON:

TOLMAN & WHITE, PRINTERS, 383 WASHINGTON STREET.

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At the meeting of the Society, February 6, 1875, it was

Voted, That a committee of nine be appointed by the President, of which he shall be chairman, to examine the By-Laws of the Society and to report what changes therein are desirable.

The chair appointed Charles O. Whitmore, Charles M. Hovey, William Gray, Jr., Robert Manning, James Cruickshanks, Edward S. Rand, Jr., John C. Hovey, and William C. Strong.

This committee presented their report at the quarterly meeting, April 3, when it was unanimously voted that it be entered on the records and lie over for consideration at the quarterly meeting in July.

At the meeting on the 19th of June, William C. Strong offered the following vote:

Voted, That the Constitution of this Society be so amended as to conform to the By-Laws now before the Society for acceptance and be merged therein, and that the code for the government of the Society be hereafter known as the Constitution and By-Laws of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

The proposed amendments, being the new code of By-Laws, were read once as required in the article providing for Amendments to the Constitution, and the vote was unanimously passed.

This subject also came up for final action at the quarterly meeting, July 3, when the code of By-Laws proposed on the first Saturday in April was adopted as the Constitution and By-Laws of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

At the quarterly meeting, on the 2d of October, a large number of verbal amendments were adopted, which are incorporated in the code as here printed.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

SECTION I.

THE OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

The Officers of the Society shall consist of a President, four Vice-Presidents, and a Recording Secretary, who shall be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting, and shall hold their offices for one year, and until others are chosen in their stead; and a Treasurer and a Secretary, who shall be appointed according to Section XVI; *provided, however*, that no person shall be eligible to the office of President unless he shall have been a member for the three years preceding.

SECTION II.

PROFESSORS.

A Professor of Botany and Vegetable Physiology and a Professor of Entomology shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Society, who shall, *ex officio*, be members of the Library Committee.

SECTION III.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

There shall be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting the following Standing Committees:—

| | | |
|---|---|----------|
| An Executive Committee of | 4 | members. |
| A Finance Committee of | 3 | “ |
| A Committee on Publication and Discussion, of | 3 | “ |
| “ “ for Establishing Prizes, of | 3 | “ |
| “ “ on the Library, | 5 | “ |
| “ “ “ Gardens, | 4 | “ |
| “ “ “ Fruits, | 7 | “ |
| “ “ “ Plants and Flowers, | 7 | “ |
| “ “ “ Vegetables, | 7 | “ |
| “ “ of Arrangements, | 9 | “ |

SECTION IV.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting for the election of Officers, Professors, and Standing Committees, shall be held on the first Saturday of October, and they shall enter upon their respective duties on the first Saturday of January ensuing.

SECTION V.

ELECTIONS.

At least ten days' notice shall be given by the Recording Secretary of every annual election, by publishing the same in not less than three newspapers printed in the city of Boston. The notice shall specify the time and place of said election, and the different Officers, Professors, and Committees, to be voted for; and unless thirty members at least shall be present, and give in their votes, the President or presiding officer shall adjourn the election for the term of three weeks, of which adjourned election the like notice shall be given as of the annual election, and the election shall then proceed, whatever may be the number of members present.

SECTION VI.

BALLOTING.

The names of persons to be balloted for at the annual election shall be contained on one ballot, and the offices for which they are respectively nominated, and the Chairmen of the several Committees, shall be distinctly designated thereon. The President or presiding officer shall appoint a Committee of three to receive, assort and count the votes given, and report the number; the polls shall remain open one hour at least; and the President shall declare who has a majority and who are elected.

SECTION VII.

THE STATED MEETINGS.

The stated meetings of the Society shall be held on the first Saturdays of January, April, July, and October. Should a legal

holiday occur on any of the aforesaid days, the meeting shall be held on the Saturday next succeeding.

SECTION VIII.

QUORUM.

Twenty members, exclusive of the President or presiding officer, shall be a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings except that of the annual election.

SECTION IX.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Reading the Records of the last meeting.
 2. Proposals for membership.
 3. Reports of Committees.
 4. Deferred and new business.
 5. Elections.
 6. Reading of communications.
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SECTION X.

VACANCIES.

Whenever a vacancy occurs in any of the offices of the Society, except those of Treasurer and Secretary, it shall be filled by a special election, of which two weeks' notice shall be given by the Recording Secretary in not less than three newspapers printed in the city of Boston; and if vacancies occur in the Standing Committees, they may be filled at any meeting of the Society.

SECTION XI.

THE PRESIDENT.

The duty of the President shall be to preside at all the meetings of the Society; to keep order; to state the business before the Society; to state and put questions, and, in case of an equal division on any question, to give the casting vote; to call for accounts and reports from all committees; to call special meetings of the

Society, when requested in writing by twelve members, and generally to superintend the execution of such By-Laws and Regulations as the Society shall from time to time enact, not otherwise provided for. He shall also report, from time to time, what measures, in his judgment, are necessary for promoting its objects and extending its usefulness. He shall annually, on or before the first Saturday in August, appoint a Committee of seven members, who shall nominate suitable candidates for the various offices of the Society for the ensuing year; and said Committee shall make their report on or before the first Saturday of September, in each year.

SECTION XII.

THE VICE-PRESIDENTS.

In the absence of the President at any meeting of the Society, the senior Vice-President present shall preside, and exercise all the authority, privileges, and power of the President; and in case neither the President nor any one of the Vice-Presidents shall be present, the Society shall choose a President *pro tempore*, who shall be invested with all the power and authority of the President.

SECTION XIII.

THE TREASURER.

The Treasurer shall have charge of the funds of the Society, and deposit the same in some bank in the city of Boston, where his account, as Treasurer, shall be kept, and all payments shall be made by checks. He shall pay prizes and gratuities upon the written order of the Chairmen of the respective Committees; and shall pay all bills when audited and examined by the Secretary. He shall have the care and custody of the seal of the Society and of the dies for the medals; and he shall cause the medals to be struck when required, and shall deliver them as awarded. He shall have in his safe keeping the bonds, deeds, notes, certificates

of stock, and other evidences of property; shall make all transfers and investments, with the consent and approval of the Finance Committee; shall pay the taxes, insurance, interest on loans, and other debts, and keep a correct account of the disbursements and receipts of the Society. He shall also act as Superintendent of the Building, subject to the orders of the Finance Committee, and shall attend to the care and letting of the same, and the collection of rents and other income of the Society. For the faithful performance of his duties he shall give bonds, in such sum and with such sureties as shall be approved by the Finance Committee, and he shall in the discharge of these duties be subject to the control of said Committee. He shall also act as Librarian under the direction of the Library Committee.

SECTION XIV.

THE SECRETARY.

The Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Society; he shall keep copies of the same in a book provided for the purpose, which shall be open to the inspection of the members at any meeting; he shall receive and read all letters and papers addressed to the Society, and shall dispose of them as provided by the By-Laws or directed by the Society. He shall audit and examine all bills and demands against the Society before payment of the same by the Treasurer.

He shall, under the direction of the Committee on Publication and Discussion, act as Editor of the publications of the Society, prepare them for the press and superintend the printing thereof. He shall make notes, for publication, of meetings for the discussion of horticultural subjects, and shall perform such other literary work as may be directed by the Society, or as may not be otherwise provided for.

In the absence of the Recording Secretary the Secretary shall perform his duties; and in the absence of both Secretaries the President shall appoint a Secretary or Recording Secretary *pro tempore*.

SECTION XV.

THE RECORDING SECRETARY.

The Recording Secretary shall give notice of all stated and special meetings of the Society, by a notice published in some newspaper printed in the city of Boston, and of adjourned meetings, by a notice posted in the Library Room of the Society, and shall regularly record the proceedings thereof in a book to be kept for that purpose.

He shall give notice to each person of his election to office or membership in the Society. He shall record the election of every member, and report his name and residence to the Treasurer. He shall deliver to the Executive Committee a copy of the proceedings of each meeting whenever requested, and shall prepare and countersign all diplomas or certificates of membership.

SECTION XVI.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, who shall be Chairman, the Ex-Presidents, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, and four members chosen as provided in Section III. They shall consider and report upon all questions of the appropriations of money, and no appropriation shall take effect without their approval. They shall appoint a Treasurer and a Secretary of the Society in December of each year, or whenever a vacancy shall occur; and they may remove them, or either of them, and appoint others instead, whenever, in their opinion, the interests of the Society shall require it. They shall have free access, at all times, to the records of the Society, and to the books of the Treasurer, and shall recommend to the Society, on or before the first Saturday of November, the amount to be appropriated for prizes and gratuities the ensuing year; and also, on the first Saturday of December, report the list of those to be offered by the respective committees, with their approval of the same. The Committee shall hold regular meetings on such day of each and every month as they may determine, and whenever called together by written no-

tice of the President, and at such meetings five members shall be a quorum, and no appropriation shall be passed except at a duly organized meeting of the Committee. The Committee shall choose a Secretary, who shall keep a record of each meeting.

SECTION XVII.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Finance Committee shall have a general supervision of the Building and other property of the Society, and shall approve all transfers and investments before the same are made by the Treasurer. They shall audit and examine the Treasurer's account in time for him to present the same to the Society on the first Saturday of January. They shall make all settlements with the Proprietors of the Cemetery of Mount Auburn, and generally adjust all matters appertaining to the indentures between the Society and that Corporation. They shall also, with the concurrence of the President, determine the number and salaries of all officers of the Society, not provided for by the By-Laws.

SECTION XVIII.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

The Committee on the Library shall have charge of all books, drawings and engravings, and shall, from time to time, procure such works as may be deemed expedient, not exceeding the amount appropriated for the purpose. They shall cause the Library to be opened for the use of members during all business hours, and at such other times as they may deem expedient. They shall report on the first Saturday in December the condition of the Library, and what measures may be necessary to preserve and increase it; and shall adopt and enforce regulations for the Library and Cabinet, which have been approved by the Society. These regulations shall be affixed to every volume, and posted in the Library room.

SECTION XIX.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION AND DISCUSSION.

This Committee shall superintend all publications of the Society, and it may engage, with the concurrence of the President, such assistance as may be requisite.

It shall also have the direction and control of discussions, lectures, and essays on horticultural subjects, and it shall be empowered, with the approval of the Executive Committee, to offer prizes for written contributions to horticultural knowledge, to an extent not exceeding the amount which the Society may place at its disposal.

SECTION XX.

COMMITTEE FOR ESTABLISHING PRIZES.

This Committee shall consist of the Chairmen of the Committees on Fruits, Plants and Flowers, Vegetables, and Gardens, and three other members, who shall be chosen as provided in Section III; and the Committee elect shall present to the Executive Committee, on or before the first Saturday of December, a list of the prizes they recommend to be offered, which, if approved, shall be adopted and published as the List of Prizes for the ensuing year.

SECTION XXI.

COMMITTEES FOR AWARDING PRIZES AND GRATUITIES.

These Committees shall be the Committee on Fruits, the Committee on Plants and Flowers, the Committee on Vegetables, and the Committee on Gardens. Two members of either of these Committees shall be a quorum, and if two members shall not be in attendance the member present may appoint other members of the Society to fill the vacancy. The said committees, except that on Gardens, shall attend at the Society's Hall, one hour before the same is opened to the public, to examine the specimens exhibited, and award the Prizes or Gratuities; also to attend at such other times and places as may be prescribed by the Society. They shall

make rules in regard to the time and manner of exhibiting specimens for prizes, to be approved by the Society. They shall examine all new Plants, Flowers, Fruits, or Vegetables presented at the exhibitions, and report their correct names, descriptions, and merits. They shall make a report of each Exhibition for publication.

The Committee on Gardens shall visit gardens, parks, and grounds, offered for prizes, under such rules as may be prescribed by the Society; and in making their awards the Committee shall have reference to the arrangement and laying out of such gardens, grounds, etc., as in accordance with true principles of beauty and art; to the adaptation of the trees, shrubs, and plants therein to such arrangement, and to the uses to which such are applied, as well as to their keeping and cultivation.

On the first Saturday of December, the said Committees shall report to the Society the Prizes and Gratuities awarded by them.

No member of any of the Committees for awarding Prizes or Gratuities shall in any case vote respecting an award for which such member may be a competitor, or have an interest therein; but in such case such member or members shall temporarily withdraw from the committee, and the vacancy shall be supplied by the remaining members; and in case all the members of any committee are competitors for any and the same prize, the award of the same shall be made by a special committee appointed for the purpose by the President, or, in his absence, by either of the Vice-Presidents of the Society.

SECTION XXII.

COMMITTEE ON GARDENS.

The Committee on Gardens shall consist of the Chairmen of the respective Committees on Fruits, Plants and Flowers, and Vegetables, and four members to be chosen as provided in Section III.

SECTION XXIII.**COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.**

There shall be in June, and in September or October, one or more Exhibitions of Fruits and Flowers, or of Fruits, Flowers, and Vegetables, either separately or together, as the Society may direct, and a Committee of Arrangements, to consist of the Chairmen of the Standing Committees on Fruits, Plants and Flowers, Vegetables, and Gardens, and nine other members, shall be chosen as provided in Section III, to superintend the same.

SECTION XXIV.**ELECTION OF MEMBERS.**

All proposals of Candidates for Life and Subscription Membership, shall be submitted to the Executive Committee, who shall examine the same, and report, on the first Saturday of each month, the names of such persons as they recommend for election. A majority of the members present shall be necessary to elect a member.

SECTION XXV.**HONORARY AND CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.**

The Society may (upon recommendation of the Executive Committee) elect Honorary and Corresponding Members at any stated meeting, to each of whom the Secretary shall transmit a Diploma or Certificate of election, under the seal of the Society, signed by the President and countersigned by the Recording Secretary; and such members shall not be entitled to hold office or to vote at any meeting.

SECTION XXVI.**LIFE MEMBERS.**

The payment of thirty dollars shall constitute a Life Membership, and exempt the member from all future assessments. And any member, having once paid an admission fee, may become a Life Member by the payment of twenty dollars in addition thereto.

SECTION XXVII.

FEES AND ASSESSMENTS.

Every subscription member, before he receives his diploma, or exercises the privileges of a member, shall pay the sum of ten dollars as an admission fee, and shall be subject afterwards to an annual assessment of two dollars.

SECTION XXVIII.

PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP.

Each member of the Society shall be entitled to the following privileges :

1. To be present and vote at all the meetings of the Society.
2. To have personal access to the Library, and to consult any of the periodicals, books, or plates, or to examine any of the models belonging to the Society, under the rules of the Library Committee.
3. To have free admission to all the exhibitions of the Society, for himself and his immediate family.
4. To receive all the publications of the Society, under the rules of the Committee on Publication and Discussion.
5. To receive a share of any seeds, scions, trees, or plants, that may be distributed.

SECTION XXIX.

DISCONTINUANCE OF MEMBERSHIP.

Any member who shall neglect, for the space of two years, to pay his annual assessment, shall cease to be a member of the Society; and the Treasurer shall erase his name from the list of members. Any member may withdraw from the Society, on giving notice to the Treasurer, and paying the amount due from him to the Society.

SECTION XXX.

EXPULSION OF MEMBERS.

If any member shall dishonor the Society, or shall be guilty of any breach of good faith towards the Society, he may be expelled

therefrom, two-thirds of the members present voting for his expulsion. But no member shall be expelled unless a written notice of the motion be served by the Secretary upon him personally, or left at his usual place of abode, at least twenty days before it is acted upon.

SECTION XXXI.

FISCAL YEAR.

The Fiscal Year shall commence on the first day of January, and all assessments for the coming year shall be due at that time.

SECTION XXXII.

APPROPRIATIONS.

Appropriations of money may be made on the first Saturdays of January, April, July, and October, *only*, except that in case of postponement by reason of a legal holiday, as provided in Section VII, they may be made on the Saturday next succeeding.

SECTION XXXIII.

PRIZES AND GRATUITIES.

Prizes or gratuities may be awarded to any person for the exhibition of any Fruits, Plants, Flowers, or Vegetables, either new in their kind, or of uncommon excellence; or for any new and successful method of cultivating any variety of Fruits, Flowers, Plants, Trees, Shrubs, or Vegetables; or for any of the objects recommended by the Standing Committees on Fruits, Plants and Flowers, Vegetables, and Gardens; or for any other object immediately connected with Horticulture; or for the essential advancement of the objects of the Society in any other way. But no gratuity shall be awarded for any object which shall have been entered or exhibited for a prize. Nor shall any prize be awarded for any object not worthy of the same. Nor shall any gratuity given for any object be of a larger amount than the lowest prize established for the same object.

SECTION XXXIV.

DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS.

Whenever any donation or bequest shall be made to the Society for any specific object, it shall be so applied, and the name of the donor and the amount and description of each donation shall be registered in a book kept for the purpose.

The Executive Committee may recommend the award of medals, or other testimonials, to donors or benefactors of the Society who have advanced its interests or promoted its usefulness.

SECTION XXXV.

DISTRIBUTION OF SEEDS AND PLANTS.

All donations of seeds and plants shall be delivered to the Chairmen of such Committees as the President may order, for examination and distribution, and the recipients shall be requested from time to time to report their success in the cultivation of the same to the Society.

SECTION XXXVI.

AMENDMENTS.

Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws may be proposed on the first Saturdays of January, April, July, and October, *only*. They shall be stated in writing, and have two readings at the time of proposal; if a majority of the members present vote in their favor, they shall be entered on the records of the Society, and lie over for consideration at the next quarterly meeting or an adjournment thereof; when, if two-thirds of the members present shall vote in favor of adopting such amendments, they shall become a part of the By-Laws.

SECTION XXXVII.

VOTING BY PROXY.

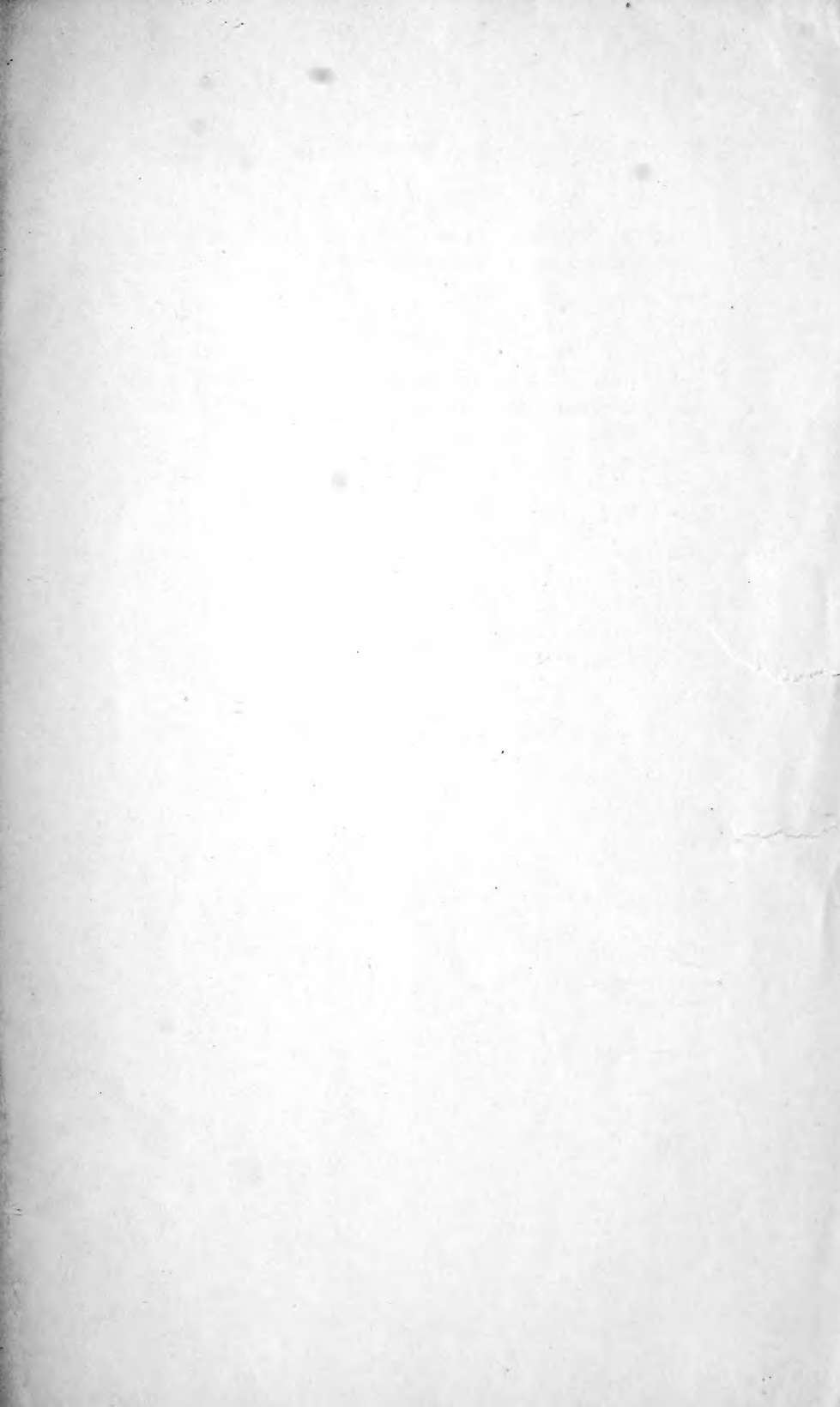
Voting by proxy shall not be allowed.

SECTION XXXVIII.

All Constitutions, By-Laws and votes now in operation, which conflict with this code, are hereby repealed.

SECTION XXXIX.

Elections and appointments under this Constitution and By-Laws, shall take effect in October and December of the current year, 1875.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



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