

June 01. 2016 1:55PM

North Andover Garden Club member honored by Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts



Phila Slade received a lifetime achievement award from the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts on May 10. Pictured, from left: Faith McCarthy, Leslie Frazier, Brenda Reeve, Phila Slade, Karen Lang, Nancy Norbedo and Norma Lochmann. Courtesy Photo

Phila has been an active member of the North Andover Garden Club since 1992 and involved in town beautification and service for more than 60 years. She has worked tirelessly on behalf of Patriots Memorial Park on Main Street in North Andover. In 1995, Phila attained National Register of Historic Places status for the 1922 Olmsted Brothers park and the surrounding Tavern Acres homes. Next, she began restoration of the neglected, overgrown and highly visible 3 acres by enlisting help from community volunteers and school children to raise over \$15,000 to refurbish the historic signature park to its former beauty and prominence. Thanks to her dogged preservation efforts, the park was rededicated on Flag Day in 1998.

Phila has organized biannual cleanup parties of Boy Scouts, North Andover Garden Club members and neighbors ever since. She currently leads the charge to refurbish plantings, pathways and lines of sight.

Phila has been the ongoing chair of the North Andover Garden Club's Civic Beautification Committee, concentrating not only on the park, but also on the town library, senior center, and historic properties. She is a constant helper at the club's monthly Garden Therapy programs for the memory-impaired, the annual plant sale, and board meetings, adding her wisdom and historic perspective to discussions.
