

Bergen County Master Gardeners  
Board Meeting – April 26, 2011

The meeting was opened at 5:40 pm.

Present: Barb Johansson, Karen Pennell, Janet Jaarsma, Sissel Castelli, Leslie Maltz, Joseph Cooper, Lucy Malka, Cliff Gerenz, Janet Austin, Walter Traubel, Hank Annunziata, and Pat Corcoran (for Laura De Flora).

Absent: Tracey Fraser, Lois Lynch, Jane Furman, and Sally Ditton.

The minutes of the Board Meeting on March 23, 2011 were approved.

**The President presented the following items for discussion and action:**

A printed voucher for payment form was introduced. This form is to be used for any member seeking reimbursement for expenses generated by specific MG Board approved activities and allowances for same.

Charles Maietta (Class of 2009) is nominated to fill the unexpired term of Vivian DeMarco as Corresponding Secretary.

Ellen Petrocelli (Class of 2009) was appointed by the President to serve as the Chairman for this year's Skylands Decorating Committee. This year MGBC decorates the Library. May 13 marks the day for an advanced MG training opportunity: A mini conference on School Gardens is to be held at the County College of Morris, and features Joel Flagler as one of the presenters.

Awards for Excellence nominations are to be forwarded to Barb on or before May 7. Board members only can propose members whose outstanding work earns consideration for this award.

Our end of the year picnic will be held on June 7 at the Maltz/Taylor residence in Woodcliff Lake.

**Treasurer Report:**

Sissal presented for review a Proposed Budget for the fiscal year September 1, 2011 through August 31, 2012. The board raised a number of questions; due to time constraints, the matter was tabled for future discussion.

**Various board members were polled for their concerns and reported as follows:**

Karen, **Outreach**, reported that the recent Party for the Planet (Van Saun) was very successful and reported limited success at Wild Birds Unlimited. Upcoming events are: Cresskill Earth Fest on 4/30, Fair Lawn Green Fair on 5/18, Ridgewood Earth Day on 5/14, Green Fair at the Church of the Presentation in Saddle River 5/22, and Bill Kolvek's perennials on 6/11. Interested MG volunteers will be solicited at this evening's meeting. Karen also indicated a need for appropriate display signage to be used at MG

events; the Board voted the amount of \$500.00 for same. The Board also voted \$250.00 to replenish our supply of MG pins.

Lucy, **Special Committee Assignment**, reported that there is not yet a report on the proper assignation of MG education credits. Lucy, later, asked for comments on the Seminar on Community Gardens reports she forwarded to the board.

For Jane, **Sunshine**, Karen reported that four “personal” items were placed in the April newsletter.

**The State MG Meeting**, (Karen reporting) included the following items for information and consideration: plant sales, tours, etc.; a possible overseas garden trip; a directive from Nick Polanin that a poster labeled “And Justice For All” must be posted at all MG events, a directive that a certificate of insurance must be obtained for all off site MG activities, and a statement that the NJ State MG budget issues have still not been resolved. Mr. Polanin also advised that each county, now, is required to keep data that supports nondiscriminatory practices: We are to keep copies of our publicity items where we should note that our programs are open to the public and we are to keep records of the composition of the attendees in case federal agents express an interest.

Cliff, **Membership**, reported that the 2011 Membership Directory will be distributed this evening. The directory will also be sent on to the Class of 2011.

Joseph, **Volunteer Records**, that new internet links have been established, thus increasing the reach of MGBC in the State. He also reported that Strawberry Blossom in Wayne can be listed on our list of retail garden businesses that extend a complimentary discount to master gardeners.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10.

---

The evening’s meeting featured R. Buckley on Grubs in the Turf. Charles Maietta was voted our Recording Secretary. Other matters related to the membership included a thank you to volunteers from the outreach chair, additional volunteer opportunities (see above), and a listing of future Lois Lynch (**Trips and Tours**) led garden excursions including Laurelwood Gardens (Wayne) tomorrow.

