

Bergen County Master Gardeners
Board Meeting – January 24, 2012

The meeting opened at 5:40 pm.

Present: Karen Pennell, Joseph Cooper, Sissel Castelli, Janet Jaarsma, Charles Maietta, Barbara Johansson, Leslie Maltz, Walter Traubel, Tracey Fraser, Cliff Gerenz, Hank Annunziata, and Barbara Pisacane (Membership Committee).

Absent: Lucy Malka, Jane Furman, Lois Lynch, Janet Austin, and Sally Ditton.

Prior to the start of the meeting, the By-Laws were distributed, courtesy of Edith Wallace.

The minutes of the meeting held on December 2, 2011 were approved.

From our President Karen Pennell:

Jane Furman, Sunshine, is on a lengthy vacation.

An attempt will be made at this evening's meeting to distribute aging and accumulated pins and badges to those members who have earned them.

Karen sought Board approval for two new chairs. For Outreach: Lora De Flora, Class of 2011. For Skylands Holiday Decorating: Denise Treeza, Class of 2004. Both were approved. The amount of \$400.00 was approved as allocation for materials for the Skylands Committee.

The new State board took office this month with Ellen Simonetti serving as President. BCMG has been assigned the responsibility for speaker gifts.

The annual report comprises not only the statistics on the work of the State's master gardeners but also a narrative account of specific County projects. Tracey will work on the latter.

Excellence Award nominations are due: Karen stands ready to receive suggestions re individuals and groups that are worthy of same.

Treasurer Sissel Castelli reported a November balance of \$12,879.61 and a December balance of \$13,315.17. Tracey reminded us that the \$5000.00 included in the balance is the proceeds of an expired CD that had been intended for a worthy purpose (s), not our

day to day expenses. Sissel then went on to carefully review the projected costs for the year and minor adjustments were made. We determined, however, to not approve the budget at this time because we do not know the costs involved with pursuing 501c3 status and insurance. Charles Maietta informed that an approved budget that at the end of the fiscal year shows an overage of more than 10 percent may be subject to penalty. [This is added to the minutes at the request of Charles Maietta as clarification of the above: "If, in the event a transfer of funds must be made between and/or for amount line items in the accepted budget, that transfer should not exceed ten percent (10%) of that line item's designated amount. In reality, if the budget was accurately developed, few, if any, transfer should take place."]

A Committee is needed to work on securing insurance and working through the 501c 3 application. Barb Johansson will research insurance agents re 'Director's Insurance'.

Membership Chair Cliff Gerenz reported that the Membership Directory is ready to go to Press. The Directory will list our 174 members and the current class of 32. Barb will contact some of the seventeen members who did not renew membership. Cliff thanked Leslie Maltz and Barbara Pisacane for their very able assistance. Consideration was given by the Board to advancing an electronic directory in future. An attendant issue of declining membership with the resulting decline in funds was briefly discussed. We determined to revisit both soon.

Charles Maietta, Corresponding Secretary, has sent off a letter of support urging continued funding for the Friends of Greenway, Teaneck.

Joseph Cooper, Website Chair, mentioned that he would have reported hours completed for Karen, and then we can call the members who have not reported their hours. The report will be sent off to the State soon.

Tracey Fraser, Program Chair, previewed upcoming membership meeting topics: February – Composting, March – Rain barrels, April – NJ Gardens, and May – Garden Design. She expressed her appreciation for the wonderful response to the monthly food collection drives.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10.