

Master Gardeners of Bergen County – Minutes, Oct. 2, 2012

Attendance: Karen Pennell, President, Janet Austin, Jane Furman, Hank Annunziata, Leslie Maltz, Tracy Fraser, Joseph Cooper, Barb Johanson, Sissel Castelli, Charles Maietta, Sally Ditton, Cliff Gerenz, Lucy Malka, Laura DeFlora
The meeting was called to order by Karen at 5:35 p.m. Minutes of the board meeting May 21st, 2012 were approved.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was distributed. Our checking account balance as of Sept. 30 was \$13,118.18. There is one outstanding bill for printing for Joel's luncheon.

State Master Gardener Meeting

Jane and Joseph attended the two meetings this month. The new president of Rutgers indicated that there was likely to be some staff adjustments because of the consolidation of the university. This will probably not affect our program. The northwest conference is planned. Information can be obtained online. Michael Dirr will be presenting the Mercer County symposium March 16, 2013. Registration can be done on their website: www.mgofmc.org. There was discussion of South Korean involvement in the Master Gardener program.

Unfinished Business

There were 12 positive votes for the \$200 contribution to the Riverkeeper in Virginia's name as thanks for our summer picnic. Leslie is concerned about late newsletter submissions. She requests prompt attention to deadlines.

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee is Tracy, chair; Hank and Jane as members. They will submit their nominees to the October 23 meeting. There are five officer positions available.

Program

Tracy reported that the October 23 meeting will be on the history of pumpkins by Kevin Wright. The November 20 meeting (or perhaps November 13) will be a hands-on program on amaryllis. A confirmation of the date will follow. The December 11 meeting is the holiday party at Van Saun County Park. Tracy is still concerned about the facility assignments for next year. More information will be available at the next meeting. It was suggested that there be meetings on pruning or edible mushrooms.

New Student Breakfast

The New Student Breakfast will be Friday, October 26, from 9:30 to 10:30. Hank will chair this gathering.

Membership Fee

A vote was taken that approved continuing the \$20 fee. The deadline for submission is Nov. 30. After that the name would not be included in the directory.

A discussion followed about retaining Master Gardeners after they have completed their classes and volunteer work. It was suggested that a mentoring program be established. We will have two strategic planning sessions to deal with this suggestion, on Nov. 8 and Dec. 6 at 5:30, the location to be announced later.

Fall Harvest Festival at Overpeck

Jane requested volunteers for the Fall Harvest Festival on Oct. 27 and 28, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Outreach to School Gardens

Laura expressed interest in assisting schools in their gardening programs, perhaps in assisting teachers who supervise or establish school gardens. We will discuss this at our strategic planning meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Janet Austin

Temporary secretary

P.S. Karen – please change or correct dates or anything else as needed.