

**Master Gardeners of Bergen County
Board of Directors Minutes of**

March 19, 2013

Meeting called to order by President Pennell at 5:40 PM.

Present at the meeting: K. Pennell, J. Cooper, A. Chang, H. Annunziata, S. Castelli, Cliff Gerenz, T. Fraser, L. DeFlora, J. Furman, B. Johansson, D. Karpel, L. Malka, J. Austin and J. Walters.

Minutes of the February 26, 2013 meeting were approved and accepted, with no changes.

Treasurer's Report: Income of \$180.00, Expenses of \$25.00 Checking Balance is \$14,056.75
Membership to date is 165

Presidents Report; Karen, received an e-mail from Dail, that the class of 2013 will be going to Bill Kolvek garden center on May 31. This has been a fund raiser for us as we provide a refreshment stand and receive 10% of all flower and shrub sales. Karen asked for help with this as help is needed from 10AM to 2 PM . \$100 was authorized for cost of refreshments. Everyone is reminded to spread the word to members, friends and neighbors.

Karen is looking at a June date for our annual picnic; she will notify us as soon as a date is set.

Committee Reports;
Hospitality; Hank No report.

Programs; Tracy April 23, 7:30 PM Arnie Friedman "Details in the Garden"

Membership; Cliff, Said many members are not renewing membership in a timely manner. He had a few suggestions which might help; One was to charge \$20.00 per year as we have been, but maybe offer a discount for a three year payment of \$50.00. A second idea was to discount the annual dues by \$2.00 if paid before December 31. A third suggestion was to mail out annual membership billing form with a self address return envelope. This topic was discuss at length and raised a couple of questions; Asking why people don't pay their membership right away, could it be we have to have more exciting things to do?

Also asked why we were not represented at the Bergen Community College Fair?

Vice President; Joseph reported that a committee went over 314 members to certify who is eligible for membership service pins. The following is what they came up with:

5 year service pin....142
10 year service pin.... 88
15 year service pin..... 43
20 year service pin..... 24
25 year service pin.... 01

It was stated in the past, awards presentations were done on Arbor day at a venue. Suggestions were made to present 20 year and 25 year pins at our annual picnic. Also suggested was to start our Executive board meeting at 5PM and invite all the members who get pins, then someone will check their name off a list if they are in attendance. (Ex. If 50 show up we would present only those pins at the meeting).

Joseph also reported that 3 of the ten education hours can be acquired by taking webinars on line produced by Rutgers or Cornell Universities.

Archivist Barbara Has found many items including cookbook (fundraiser) old potting shed papers. It was discuss that we would retain hard copies of any financial papers and digitally scan or flash stick other articles.

Gardening Clubs Lucy reported a list of the new contact people for each club should be reported to Joseph, to update the website each year.

Community Outreach Laura Up coming events are: Ridgewood Earth Day Saturday April 20th 10 AM to 2 PM. Memorial Park Van Ness Square.

Party for the Planet Sunday April 21st 10AM. To 4 PM. At Bergen County Zoo Van Saun Park.

Paramus Earth Day on April 28th 12 noon to 4 PM. Patruska Park 475 Farview Ave.

All time spent helping at these events count towards volunteer hours.

Publicity Sally No report

Newsletter Leslie No report as she is out with a chipped ankle. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

Other Business Jane contacted Walter Perry about magnetized name tags . Also said we will be selling Master Gardener's hats.

Donna class liaison said Word is there will a County sponsored Fair in September at Overpeck Park.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.