

Master Gardeners of Bergen County Board of Directors Minutes for

September 23, 2014

Meeting was called to order by President Joseph Cooper at 5:30

Present at the meeting: Joseph Cooper, Suzanne Danzig, Pat Libutti, Janet Austin, Daphne Boss Ayalon, Pat Fromm, Jane Furman, Serpil Leveen, Fran Langendoen, Lucy Malka, John Walters, Leslie Maltz, Barbara Johansson, Karen Pennell, Donna Karpel, Hank Annunziata

Previous Minutes:

Had not been submitted, will be submitted for approval at the October meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Balance as of May 24, 2014.....\$13,212.12
Balance as of September 24, 2014.....\$12,568.36

Corresponding Secretary:

Archivist:

Barbara Johansson provided us with a chapter #2 of MG of Bergen County background history.

Class Liaison:

Community Outreach:

Request form Scott Japko of NJBG to participate in their 2 day Harvest Festival, October 4&5. Jeff Chan will work the event. Request from Carol Haeefe of **Care on the Corner**, a nonprofit in Hasbrook Heights. Looking to offer gardening programs to the community, especially children in the spring of 2015. We were think of either a community garden and/or workshops on container gardening. Looking for volunteers who would like to work with us. Robyn Lowenthal will follow up.

Finance Committee:

Cliff requested a wheel barrel for the Zoo in Van Saun. The board will table it until the finance committee has a chance to review this and how to handle future requests.

Membership:

There was some discussion of honorary memberships for some of our most senior members or those in poor health. No specific action taken on this matter.

Newsletter:

The membership renewal form was emailed with the October newsletter and will be with the Nov. Edition

Programs:

Tracey suggested we organize a plant exchange. A specific date would need to be scheduled perhaps at one of our MG meetings.

Publicity:

Pat Libutti suggested we get involved with "Patch". Also suggested we become more visible among the Garden Clubs. Pat continues to reach out for suggestions for a logo, only 2 responses so far. Will attempt to reach out for input in the next newsletter. Three other counties have their own logos.

RMGANJ Report:

The MG conference takes place on October 11th and 16-18 of our members are registered to attend. Hank Annunziata and Albina Daukantas will receive the Award for Excellence at the October conference. Congratulations Albina and Hank!

Sunshine:

Walter is in Hackensack where he had a procedure done with complications and would love visitors or notes. We lost a fellow MG, John Gallo, class of 2008 to pneumonia.

Site Coordinator:

Two of our sites are hosting events: Garretson Forge Farm "Harvest Festival-the 1800's Farm" on October 19th from 10-4 when there will be tours and lots of local products and Theilke Arboretum on "The Fall Festival" on October 5th.

Website:

Updated web pages with current information and added forms for events.

Writer Bureau:

We are working towards our publishing goals and are optimistic that we can begin in the near future. This is a new, extensive and exciting venture, taking more time than was at first realized because it is so involved and made up of many diverse aspects and fellow members.

Old Business:

- Merchant Card Services: The vendor originally proposed by our president was found to be unacceptable. The Merchant's "credit card processor" does not want to discuss their security process with Leslie. Alternative options should be discussed by the finance committee and Leslie will evaluate their acceptability.
- Bergen County Education Farm-shooting for July 2014 opening. It has since been delayed by County Administrators.

New Business:

- Dee Trezza reported on the theme of the Skylands Holiday decorating committee. The BCMG were assigned the dining hall and breakfast room and the theme is a "Renaissance Christmas", with a spin on the 12 Days of Christmas and the 12 Plants of Christmas. With this new theme come new materials so Dee requested that the board grant her \$500 for her budget. Anna Fisichella will assist as coordinator again this year.
***Motion:** John Walters made a motion to approve the \$500 budget and Lucy second the motion. All were in favor.
- Hank Annunziata and Albina Daukantas will receive the "Award for Excellence" at the MG conference in October. Congratulations Hank and Albina.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50