

**Master Gardeners of Bergen County
Board of Directors Minutes for
January 24, 2017**

Meeting was called to order by President Cooper at 5:35

Present at the meeting: Joseph Cooper, Suzanne Danzig, Hank Annunziata, Donna Faustini, Serpil Leveen, Lucy Malka, Karen Pennell, Joe Papa, Josie Ko, Janet Schulz, Donna Karpel, Denise George, Dail Reid, Teresa Pegg, John Walters, Patrick P. Lull, Bruce Walenczyk, Carolyn Gretchen, Dennis Gretchen, John Walters

Presidents Report:

Joseph introduced our new Vice President, Carolyn Gretchen and our new chair of "Sunshine" committee, Dennis Gretchen.

MG 2016 Graduation had a great turn out but the room was a bit cramped.

MG Holiday party was very nice approximately 60 attended.

The Skyland Holiday Open House was another success, however the turnout was down from last year. This might be due to the fact that the Open House night coincided with Ringwood's Open House. This requires some discussion. Many compliments on the fairy ornaments, may want to consider selling special ornaments next year.

Rutgers Home and Gardening School take as place March 18, highly recommend attending.

Edith Wallace would like the board to reconsider printing hard copies of the directory, Dail suggested using a printer she knows. However, we still believe there are many advantages to the electronic format; changes can be made instantly, cost savings, environmentally responsible.

This year's syllabus is online.

Tee shirts are being delivered at tonight's meeting.

Vice President:

Our new VP, Carolyn Gretchen greeted the board.

Recording Secretary:

***Motion:** Janet Schulz motioned to approve November minutes as written, seconded by Donna Karpel, all approved.

Corresponding Secretary:

Serpil had nothing to report

Treasurer's Report:

Opening Balance as of October 31,, 2016..... \$10,253.44

Income:\$1978.00

Expenses:\$1441.32

Balance as of December 31, 2016.....\$10,790.12

Still need to determine the cost of implementing a credit card option for MGofBC, many options are out there to look at. Bruce and John Walters need to figure out how they coordinate their records, therefore the first step when setting up the credit card is to provide for online membership renewal. The nonprofit application has not yet been submitted as it is a lengthy process. Bruce is about one month away from filing the application then up to 18 months for the IRS to process the application.

***Motion:** Suzanne Danzig motioned we approve Septembers Treasurer's report, Donna Faustini seconded and all approved.

Community Outreach Events and Volunteers:

Expecting to get incoming requests for volunteers as spring approaches. Earth Day volunteers are needed.

Garden Club Liaison:

Lucy reported that many clubs are resuming meetings. Janet Troy from the Englewood Garden Club contact MGofBG to inform that they had a bus going to the Philadelphia Flower Show. This continues to raise the question as to whether we promote activities/events from clubs that do not participate with MGofBC.

Class Liaison:

Patrick reported that the class was excited to reconvene this semester. Patrick will report on the Rutgers Home School taking place this March. There approximately 20 students in the new class.

Speakers Bureau:

Arnie met with a teacher from Ft Lee School that Dail referred to him to assist with planning a garden for the students to build. They are seeking permission along with applying for a grant for this project. Will assist with the design later. No requests for lectures to date.

Publicity:

Denise reported Facebook is set up but there is no activity. Members cannot post directly but Denise will get a notice and in turn post notice or message.

Hospitality:

Hank has nothing new to report.

Membership:

John and Terry reported that membership checks continue to come in. To date 105 members have paid, 3 members paid cash at last meeting leaving no name, so John will try to find out who they are at tonight's meeting. John provided Terry with a flash drive that Cliff prepared. Membership discount cards were distributed at graduation and Joe Papa will mail out the remaining cards.

Newsletter:

Janet reported that Rutgers Home School was listed and articles are coming in.

RMGANJ:

Master Gardener's Conference is scheduled for October 7, 2017.

December 2016 RMGANJ Report

Carol Quinn retiring from Rutgers.

Conference date set for --October 7, 2017. Speakers for the conference discussed. 2016 Conference Survey discussed

Election of new Officers took place. Joseph Cooper continues as Corresponding Secretary
Pot Luck Lunch and Auction took - Thank you Arnold Kleenberg, auctioneer. Bergen County for beverage service and set-up

Sunshine:

Dennis Gretchen is our new chair. Sunshine chair should follow the wishes of the individual being reported on before it is published.

Site Coordinator Liaison:

Davie's Arboretum has been added to our official site list. The Russell's Sensory Garden has been removed from the official list of designated sites.

NJBG--Highly successful Holiday Open House in December. "A Gardeners Holiday". Historic landscape design lecture by Rich Flynn on Jan 21. Indoor work continues every Wed, 9-1 at the greenhouse.

Thielke Arboretum--Winter Story Walk in January Tracks in the Snow by Wong Herbert Yee

Karen Pennell would like to pass on her responsibilities a Site Coordinator. Joseph will follow-up with two recommendations for this position.

Tours and Trips:

Josie has scheduled a trip for May 10th to Stone Barn Farm of Blue Hill. We need a minimum of 10 people for this tour. The fee is \$25 for a 90 minute tour or \$65 for tour and buffet lunch. There is no bus for this trip depending upon carpooling.

June's trip will go to Catskills Nursery, this is a free tour, exact date not set yet.

Programs:

February's speaker is Anthony Bracco of Bracco Farms reports on "Community Supported Agriculture". March speaker is Chris Robina from Monrovia, May speaker is Sarah McFay Joint meeting with Passaic is still in the works, however, they would like a certain speaker, Kerry Ann Mendez who is quite expensive, approximately \$2500. We may try to schedule this for the September meeting. Janet Schulz suggested David Culp as a possible speaker for the joint meeting, his fee is in the \$1000 range.

Volunteers Records:

To date 7340 hours have been recorded, 4 board members have not recorded their hours yet, 7 new students have not recorded. Class liaison's role is key in relaying the importance of recording volunteer hours.

Website:

Donna Karpel assisted with updating membership.

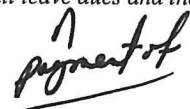
Speakers Bureau:

Arnie reported that no requests have come in - how do we promote this feature? Arnie will contact other counties who have successful Speaker's Bureaus

Old Business:

Membership 'Lifetime' designation has yet to be submitted into Bylaws as we continue to clarify the wording. Do these members have to maintain hours and education? These requirements should be at the member's discretion. We will revert back to the original wording that Donna Karpel will submit. The following is the new (original) wording that will be voted upon at the next meeting:

"**Lifetime Master Gardeners**" This will be a designation to those who have been active, dues paying members for at least 20 years and who have accumulated a minimum of 1000 hours over those 20 years. *This membership shall leave dues and the number of volunteer/education hours up to the ability and discretion of the member.*



Hospitality has requested that we organize a hospitality decorating group under the umbrella of "Hospitality Committee", this would help Albina. Joseph will look to do this and contact Albina.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00