

**Master Gardeners of Bergen County
Board of Directors Minutes for
February 28, 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, Josie Ko, Janet Schulz, Donna Karpel, Dail Reid, Patrick P. Lull, Bruce Walenczyk, Carolyn Gretchen, Dennis Gretchen, Melody Corcoran

Presidents Report:

Joseph introduced our new *Site Coordinator liaison*, Melody Corcoran. Karen Pennell is stepping down from the position after serving as our first Site Coordinator Liaison for the last 3 years.

The syllabus has been updated on the website due to changes made to the schedule.

The email service provided by our web hosting has switched programs and the new one does not offer mass emailing, so Joseph is researching a new web based provider. Serpil will be sending emails in batches until we settle this issue. Services such as 'Constant Contact' exchange and sell its information on its users, so we are looking for an alternative provider..

9/11 Memorial site has been removed from our official volunteer site list as the County has hired a company to maintain the site.

When replying to group e-mails, please be conscious if you need to reply only to the sender. Using 'Reply-all' could waist the time of others with unnecessary information. For example, if Josie were to send out a general notice of an upcoming event all 15 recipients do not need to read your reply.

Vice President:

Carolyn reported that Jeannie Epiphan, an ecologist from Rutgers along with Elaine Silverstein, will be supervising and sharing their wisdom about invasive plants at the seasonal "Weed Warrior" event at Thielke Arboretum on April 2nd from 10:00am to 1:00pm, located at 460 Doremus Ave., Glen Rock. Rain date April 23rd from 1:00pm-4:00pm. All are welcome.

Recording Secretary:

***Motion:** Joseph Cooper motioned to approve January minutes as written, seconded by Carolyn Gretchen, all approved.

Corresponding Secretary:

Serpil had nothing to report

Treasurer's Report:

Opening Balance as of December 31, 2016.....	\$10,790.12
Income:	\$730.00
Expenses:	\$714.32
Balance as of December 31, 2016.....	\$10,805.80

Bruce would like to check the renewal application for the 501C3 to see how far back we have to go to provide financial information. It may be that we can renew rather than refile for this classification which is a much more in-depth process.

Bruce still has to consult with John to see if they can coordinate their tasks in order to use a CC merchant.

(I do not have a motion to approve last month's Treasurer's Report, did I miss something?)

Community Outreach Events and Volunteers:

Dail reported on the following Earth Day events:

Northern Valley Earth Day, Saturday, April 22

Bergen County Zoo Party for the Planet, Sunday, April 23

Ridgewood Earth Day, Sunday, April 23

Ridgefield Park Earth Day, Saturday, May 13

In addition, Robyn will be assisting with gardening basics for the Community Garden at Ridgefield Park CG on April 22nd and Arnie will be assisting with a design plan for school projects in Hillsdale and Ft Lee School 4.

Garden Club Liaison:

Garden Clubs are in full swing. Allendale mentioned that they would be interested in joining the Grapevine. Some Garden Clubs get together for joint meetings.

Janet Schulz mentioned that we are getting several announcements from other organizations, not garden clubs, ie. Shade Tree Commission. How do we address announcements in the newsletter?

Class Liaison:

Patrick reported that 2 students still owe their volunteer report.

Speakers Bureau:

Arnie was not present. Joseph is seeking teachers to go out to speak. We had two requests last week.

Publicity:

Denise was not present. Joseph asked Denise to post mid-month updates and Newsletter. It was suggested that Denise do a presentation at our MG meeting to inform and educate members as to the use and benefits of Facebook.

Hospitality:

Things are quiet on this front.

Membership:

John was not present.

Newsletter:

Janet wanted to apologize for the misinformation about Dennis Gretchen in the newsletter.

Sal Lagattuta has offered to write reviews of various books and shows. He wrote a review on 'Secret Gardens'. We should determine whether we want these types of things in the newsletter.

Janet confirming that all of her work and all articles are edited by Miriam Taub. Upon reviewing such articles Miriam was concerned about an article written by Arnie that made reference to an article in the National Geographic and that it was very close to the same wording in the original article. She was concerned about copyrighting.

Karen also wanted to make mention that there should not be any use of children's names or pictures of children in any of our newsletters or advertising without a signed release.

RMGANJ:

Nominations for the Award for Excellence--2017.

At the Fall Conference, each county recognizes the work of 2 people or 2 sites or 1 person and 1 site.

Timeline of events: March-- Discuss potential Nominees, April- Finalize list & Vote, May- Approve and Announce.

Also acknowledged at the Fall Conference are the Master Gardeners who will receive the 25 year pins.

Reminder: a signed parent permission slip is needed in order to publish photos that include children. See RMGANJ Nov 1, 2016 minutes for more details on the MGofBC website

Sunshine:

Janet mentioned that Dennis Gretchen in the Newsletter that Dennis is the new chair for the Sunshine Committee.

Site Coordinator Liaison:

Melody Corcoran will be taking over the responsibilities as Site Coordinator from Karen Pennell. Melody plans on visiting all the official sites.

The Hermitage Museum and the Hermitage Master Gardeners held a maple-tapping event in February, about 15 trees were tapped on the grounds of the National Historic Landmark in Ho-Ho-Kus.

Garretson Farm celebrated the opening day of their third season hosting the Garretson Community Seed Bank on February 26th. This seed library offers heirloom and organic seeds from the farm as well as donations from carefully selected heirloom and organic seed companies. The mission of the seed library is to educate the community on the importance of preserving heirloom seed varieties as well as to offer support for people who wish to start their gardens from seed.

Theilke Arboretum started the winter sowing project at the arboretum, on Saturday mornings, weather permitting. Participants learn how to plant seeds for maximum yield, soil mixtures for native plants, and how easy and fun the process is to grow plants.

The Language of Bark - a Winter Workshop. In February, expert Jean Epiphan taught an interactive workshop on bark ID. Participants were shown how the mysteries of bark patterns, texture, feel, color, and sometimes even smell can be used to identify the trees.

Tours and Trips:

Josie reported that trip to Hollister House in Connecticut will take place on July 14th and a private tour of the "Native Garden" at the NYBG will take place on August 16.

Programs:

Our joint meeting with MG of Passaic will be held on April 25. Larry Weaner, landscape architect, will be presenting on "Meadow Landscaping" at a cost of \$450, but both counties will share the cost. Passaic will provide refreshments.

Volunteers Records:

Donna Karpel thanked Patrick for assisting in obtaining the outstanding volunteer hours from the new students. Donna has also requested the aide of the class Liaison in spreading the word of the importance of the recording of volunteer hours.

To date 8776 hours have been recorded with additional MGs to submit theirs. This should bring us to the target goal of 8840 volunteer hours.

Donna suggested we delist Davis Johnson Park since the site coordinator does not record his volunteer or educational hours nor do any other MG record hours for that site.

There is an ongoing issue with the Hackensack River Greenway as neither Richard Karp(site coordinator) nor anyone else submitted volunteer hours there.

***Motion:** Karen Pennell motioned that we amend the bylaws, article IV, section 1B to read; *"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 payment of dues and the number of volunteer/education hours up to the ability and discretion of the member.* Joseph Cooper seconded the motion and all were in favor. This will be voted upon at our May meeting after it has been published in the April Newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55