

**Master Gardeners of Bergen County
Board of Directors Minutes for
September 26, 2017**

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

Present at the meeting: Joseph Cooper, Carolyn Gretchen, Bruce Walenczyk, Donna Faustini, Dennis Gretchen, Donna Karpel, Terri Pegg, Melody Corcoran, Hank Annunziata, Josie Ko, Karen Pennell, Donna Karpel, Suzanne Danzig, Miriam Taub, Patrick Lull

Presidents Report:

Matt Frawley continued his presentation for the online volunteer service he can provide for MGofBC. This service is currently being used by Mercer County to track volunteer hours, manage membership information, correspond with members and produce reports. We will further evaluate our needs and cost effectiveness of its development.

Karen Riede from class of 2017 has been hired as the new RCE Horticulture Assistant to Joel Flagler. Karen has a Rutgers degree and 20 years of experience in nursing and environmental studies, she will participate at MG of BC Board meetings as RCE representative.

Lucy Malka will be stepping down from Garden Club Liaison chair after many years at this position, Joseph and the board thank her for her years of service, especially with her assistance and guidance through Joseph's presidency. Josie Ko will be taking on this position after doing a wonderful job as Trips and Tours Chair, we will miss the adventures she has taken us on throughout the years.

Patrick Lull has agreed to take over as Publicity Chair and as our equipment manager.

Denise George will be stepping down as Publicity Chair but is available for ad hoc positions and special events. Patrick served as a wonderful liaison to last year's class.

Microphones are missing.

Miriam Taub has agreed to be our Writers Bureau Chair, we look forward to her efforts as she assists our members with sharing their passions. Miriam and Arnie will be working hand in hand.

We are currently looking for Outreach and Trips and Tours Chairs. Joseph has several calls to our MGs seeking replacements and welcome any recommendations. 'Outreach' will be the challenge so please offer any suggestions.

Vice President:

Nothing to report at this time.

Recording Secretary:

***Motion:** Carolyn Gretchen motioned that the May minutes be approved. Joseph seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Corresponding Secretary:

Serpil will send a thank you note to Gallya Gordon for her donation to MG in Jane Furman's name.

Treasurer's Report:

Opening Balance as of April 30, 2017.....\$13,364.17
Income:\$2281.50
Expenses:\$2337.43
Balance as of August 31, 2017.....\$13,308.24

***Motion:** Joseph motioned to approve the treasurer's report, Donna Karpel seconded and all were in favor.

Community Outreach Events and Volunteers:

Dail was not present but we have been informed that Dail will be stepping down as she will be moving. We are looking to replace Dail, suggestions are welcome.

Garden Club Liaison:

Josie Ko will be taking on the responsibility as chair, Lucy Malka will be stepping down. I will personally miss Lucy's editing of the board meeting minutes.

Class Liaison:

Patrick reported that he enjoyed acting as class liaison and that he felt the class was very productive.

Speakers Bureau:

Arnie was not present.

Writers Bureau:

Miriam Taub is taking on the role as new chair.

Publicity:

Patrick Lull will be taking over this position.

Hospitality:

Hank reported that the summer picnic was well attended and event was great. The date for the Holiday party will be confirmed but the first Tuesday in December is suggested date and the Hermitage is the recommended location. All will be confirmed at the next meeting.

Membership:

Terri reminded that Membership dues are due by the end of the year.

Newsletter:

Janet was not present but Miriam asked that we get all articles in by the deadline.

Website:

The websites homepage and subsections have been updated. Next month's homepage will feature: Anniversary of members, the 2018 renewal forms, next meetings details and Fair photos.

RMGANJ:

June

Nick Polanin reported that they have scheduled a Master Gardener helpline training event, Jazzing Up Your Garden Knowledge, focusing on diagnostics from 9:30 to 4:15, on June 21.

The event was held at the Cook Campus Center, preceded Rutgers Gardens Summer Solstice Jazz Festival, included a plant swap, the notification went to the coordinators, who should send it out to their members. Nick reported that they are working on the web site for the Jazz It Up videos. It should be available in a month or so for on-demand viewing.

July

Nick Polanin reported that the Master Gardener Conference in Salt Lake City Utah was good. Next year's conference in Chattanooga Tennessee. Nick is the assistant chair-person to assist Dan Kluchinski. Dr. Megan Muehlbauer is the new Hunterdon Agriculture agent specializing in Tree Fruit. Bob Mickel from Hunterdon announced his upcoming retirement. He specializes in livestock and pastures. Other openings across the State exist including Ocean/Monmouth/Atlantic (Fisheries and Marine).

August/Sept

Nick Polanin reported that he hoped everyone had successful 4-H County fairs. 1152 attended the Great Tomato Tasting, which is a great success and over-extends the Snyder Farm staff. They are planning a meeting to discuss how to mitigate this in the future for this event and other similar events. The use of Sign-up.com went very smoothly. Nick reported that he has yet to finish the Annual Report. As a follow-up to discussion at last month's meeting Nick expects to have a limited number of the Annual Reports available for the fall conference. Dan Kluchinski, Associate Director/Program Leader, is back on medical leave for an undetermined amount of time, Dan was working part-time in July. The department is figuring how to move forward given the situation.

Garden Market: Ellen Simonetti reported that the NJ Shade Tree Association will have a table top display Their material will include a shade tree recommendation book – Trees for New Jersey Streets. Counties may want to purchase the book for the helpline libraries. It is \$15 for non-members. It was decided that sign-up sheets for Shade Tree Commission hours will be in the market. 4.5 hours have been approved for Shade Tree Commissions – Ellen will have handouts. Master Gardeners should send this information to their counties.

Jane Gardner reported on the State Conference Evaluation Survey results. The summary: 435 out of 3000 responded, which is considered a good response rate. Some counties had distribution problems and had no responses. 75% of the responders have never been to the conference so we reached people we wanted to reach. Jane went through an extensive summary of the responses and her interpretation of the results. A motion was made to break into 7 groups, one for each issue identified by Jane's analysis, to work on responses at the November and December meetings and report out in March. The advertising/communication issue can be addressed immediately for the upcoming conference in each county by their representative.

Sunshine:

Nothing to report

Site Coordinator Liaison:

Melody surveyed site coordinators regarding signs similar to the ones displayed at Washington Spring while MGs are working at the site; only Garretson, Hermitage, Davies Arboretum and Overpeck Butterfly Garden are interested. Total number of signs requested 7-8. Also surveyed site coordinators about a site fair at one of the MG classes instead of individual visits by the coordinators. NJBG thought it was a good idea, Garretson thought it would spread things too thin, each site would not be able to go into detail about what is done there, the students might not have time to hear about every site. This idea has not yet been discussed with Joel.

Tours and Trips:

Seeking a new chair as Josie is taking the role of Garden Club Liaison.

Programs:

(Donna, please forward the list of speakers for the upcoming meetings)

Volunteer Records:

Donna has calculated the hours for all those MGs who are eligible for anniversary pins.

Old Business:

Online Volunteer reporting presentation by Matt Frawley

New Business:

Joel will let Hank know when to schedule the Breakfast meeting for the new class to introduce the board members.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05