

**Master Gardeners of Bergen County
Board of Directors Minutes for
January 23, 2018**

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

Present at the meeting: Joseph Cooper, Carolyn Gretchen, Dennis Gretchen, Terri Pegg, Melody Corcoran, Hank Annunziata, Miriam Taub, Serpil Leveen, Janet Schulz, Mark Penchinar, Suzanne Danzig, Donna Karpel, Dorothy Penkalski, Arnie Friedman, Bruce Walencyk

Presidents Report:

Lifetime Master Gardener of Bergen County Award: As per our discussion at last meeting, we have five members eligible for this award. Dennis Gretchen made some wonderful certificates in a presentation folder and three were handed out at the Holiday Party; Cliff Gerenz, Janet Austin, Barbara Johansson. Joseph e-mailed John Grill and Bob Schneider with the news and mailed them their certificates.

Skylands HOH: Although I don't know the exact numbers, this fundraiser is expected to be one of the best. It was reported that over 1,000 people showed up on Sunday alone, breaking previous records. The next theme will be "Country Manor House" and we will be decorating the Great Hall again. Two videos have been uploaded to the web featuring the volunteers and the decorations. Links can be found on our website, NJBG and YouTube.

Online Reporting & Membership Portal: 2 out of 5 sections are built, section 1 (Member Access) and section 2 (Member Information). This weekend, section 3 (Volunteer Reporting) will be started followed by section 4 (Administrative) and 5 (Correspondence). Testing should start in about 2 weeks and we are currently ahead of schedule, so it looks like we will be up and running by the end of February with final tweaking to follow. The password section was a little tricky.

MG of BC Holiday Party: Hank and his crew did an outstanding job with the set-up and food and Albina's decorations gave the place a festive feel.

Food Bank Donation: Thanks to the generosity of Albina and her helpers in creating the holiday party centerpieces, Josie Ko collected \$470 for the "Center for Food Action".

Annual Committee Reports: All committee chairs please send your annual report for 2017. If you are new to your chair position please contact the former chair to see what they sent in the past and use it as a guide. Also, please e-mail copy to Carolyn Gretchen and archivist, Dorothy Penkalski. These reports assist incoming chairs and will be submitted into the archives.

RCE Annual Report: Joel sent me the Rutgers annual report form to fill out, I will work with several committees and site coordinators to compile the information needed and send the finished copy to Joel and the board.

Joseph officially handed over the gavel to Carolyn.

Vice President:

No report.

Recording Secretary:

Motion: Janet Schulz motioned to approve last month's minutes, Arnie Friedman seconded, and all were in favor.

Corresponding Secretary:

Not present, however, Carolyn mentioned that Samdar sent an e-mail to new class to invite them to the meetings.

Treasurer's Report:

Dues are coming in rapidly along with donations. \$470 was raised from sale of centerpieces at the holiday party. Cost of website set-up so far is \$1,250. Cost for the holiday open house was \$369. Bruce asked if we should send out thank you notes to those who made donations. Terri will send thank you's by way of e-mail.

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| Opening Balance as of October 31, 2017..... | \$11,435.51 |
| Income:..... | \$1,974.50 |
| Expenses:..... | \$2,306.52 |
| Balance as of December 31, 2017..... | \$11,103.49 |

***Motion:** Arnie Friedman motioned that the treasurer's report be approved, Donna Karpel seconded and all were in favor.

Community Outreach Events and Volunteers:

Mark outlined upcoming events.

Party for the Planet at Van Saun is April 15, Mark is filling out form for this event and Jeffrey Chan will assist.

Northern Valley Earth Fair is April 21th. Mark will reach out to members to ask for assistance. Thank you to Karen Riede and Donna for their insight and assistance.

Garden Club Liaison:

Josie not present.

Class Liaison:

Donna not present.

Speakers Bureau:

Arnie spoke to Irvington, NY Garden Club and was received well. He had a request from the "Actors Fund Home" in Englewood, to do a flower arranging workshop. Trader Joe's donates flowers and after a request for volunteers to present Lillie Steinberg and Arta Pagano volunteered to put on demonstration. Arnie is speaking at Teaneck Garden Club in April.

Writers Bureau:

Publicity:

Not present.

Hospitality:

Things are quiet at this time but the holiday party was fantastic!

Membership:

108 members have paid to date.

Newsletter:

Nothing to report. Miriam has been in touch with Donna Karpel to get names for "Members of the month".

Website:

MGofBC.org website updated sections include: The Homepage, Potting Shed, Members, Meeting and events.

The RCE 2018 Winter Syllabus has been posted.

Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Program has given us its policies & procedures dated June 2010 for posting on our website. These can be found in the "member" section of the website under "Rutgers Documents"

The Current Homepage features the Skylands Manor Holiday Open House Videos, Lifetime Master Gardener of Bergen County recognition, Rutgers Home Gardeners School. See president's report for website portal status update.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension:**RMGANJ:**

December 5, 2017 meeting:

Treasurer's Report: Pat Schanzlin reported that we received the revenue from OCPE for the conference. The budget still needs to be reconciled with Rutgers.

Master Gardener's Coordinator's Report: Nick Polanin was not able to attend the meeting.

Old Business: Results from the Conference Committee brainstorming took place, a representative from each of the 4 groups presented their recommendations.

New Business: Election of officers took place for 2018/19 with Pat Schanzlin as president and Jane Gardner a treasurer, Terry Zane will complete the vice president's term until the election for that position next year. Pat Schanzlin will put together a working group to talk about the conference ideas before the next meeting in March. A budget committee was formed consisting of the President, Vice President and Treasurer along with two non-officers who volunteered for the committee. The conference jobs assignments will take place along with a review of the job descriptions as several have changed significantly. The meeting closed with a potluck lunch and gift exchange.

Sunshine:

Dennis reported that Patrick Lull had gallstone surgery which turned into pancreatitis, was in very serious condition but recovering now. Albina had two heart attacks and is home recovering. Dennis will send notes to both and this news will go into the Potting Shed.

Site Coordinator Liaison:

E-mailed dates available for presentations to the new class to all site coordinators.

Tours and Trips:

Beverly not present.

Programs:

Our own Janet Schulz will be presenting "How to make Hypertufa Trough". Hoping to arrange a workshop in the spring for those interested in making one. Thank you Janet for taking the time to prepare for the program.

Next month we are hosting Arianna Lindberg from Rutgers. She is an instructor in the department of Landscape Architecture in the school of Environmental and Biological Sciences. Arianna also manages the student organic farm at Rutgers. Her topic will be "A Year in the Vegetable Garden".
March 27 Dr. Edith Wallace will present "Everything you wanted to know about Lilacs", a 20 year member of our Master Gardeners program.

April; I have been in contact with Passaic Master Gardeners, they have agreed to another joint meeting. We are looking into possibly having David Culp, a bit of a stretch for us as he charges \$1000 plus expenses, but since we have had minimal program expenses so far this year, I thought we might consider this opportunity. We should discuss this as a group. Board asked if his fees were negotiable and if we might get another garden club to join in for a three way split of his fees. Ken Drew was another suggestion.

A request for a room for our biennial Garden Club Tea has been made for Thursday, June 14, 2018. Awaiting confirmation.

Volunteer Records:

Donna is sending out emails to get final submissions. To date we have 7,558 hours submitted. These numbers exceed last year's numbers by 220 hour but we are 1300 hours away from our ending target.

Inge Langer, 1998 and Edith Wallace, 1998 are eligible for Lifetime Award.

Each year we have members who take liberties with their hours. It happens repeatedly and again this year with one individual. He has been advised in the past to be careful with entering his hours and it still persists. What should be our next course of action? Donna will send an e-mail to this member and cc site coordinators.

Archivist:

On January 3, 2018, I received the year end report and a list of Award for Excellence recipients and 25 year pin recipients from Karen Pennell, RMGANJ State representative, Bergen County.

I will be contacting Barbara Johansson and Cliff Gerenz soon to get the boxed archives in my possession.

Barbara Johansson had requested to appear at the board meeting to discuss materials stored at her house. She said she has multiple cartons of old MG material such as vouchers with sales slips; member renewal forms; volunteer and education reports before the volunteer reporting became available online; bank statements and checks from 2003-2007; deposit slips in a leatherette format. Bruce will take some of these items.

In addition she has copies of paper newsletters: "MG Bulletin", "update", "Newslines" and the Potting Shed (which came into existence in 1995 and went electronic in 2008). She mentioned that it was interesting to read about events, such as spring gardening fair and plant sales.

Old Business:

Carolyn and Dennis met at the Veterans Home and they were very receptive. They have beautiful gardens and an activity room for indoor activities. Carolyn will have to speak to Joel for approval as this is not an authorized site. The home will provide a \$2-3000 budget for this program and Home Depot donates material. Carolyn will speak to Joel first. New sites are always welcome.

New Business:

Meeting adjourned at 6:50