

**Master Gardeners of Bergen County
Board of Directors Minutes for
October 22, 2019**

Meeting was called to order by President Gretchen at 5:35 pm.

Present at the meeting: Carolyn Gretchen, Dennis Gretchen, Melody Corcoran, Hank Annunziata, Miriam Taub, Karen Riede, Janet Schulz, Marie Alfano, Herb Arbeiter, Joseph Cooper, Terri Pegg, Arnie Friedman, Suzanne Danzig, Donna Faustini, Patrick Lull, Suzanne Danzig, Lorelei Koran

Presidents Report:

Oct 5th, Joseph Cooper, Karen Riede, Dennis Gretchen and I attended the Rutgers Master Gardeners Association Fall Conference. We were not represented well...why? Not interesting? Miriam suggested October was a deterrent, 3 male speakers and no female speakers? Joseph said timing will always be an issue and that attendance has been declining over the past few years. Perhaps doing a webinar is an alternative but that is very expensive.

The presentation from Dr Broccoli, a Rutgers professor, regarding climate change was delivered from a scientific point of reference with many charts describing weather trends. Since our Award for Excellence winners, Donna Faustini and Miriam Taub were unable to attend, we are acknowledging at tonight's meeting.

Special thanks to our hard-working bylaws committee members, Karen Pennell, Janet Schulz and Edith Wallace for their commitment to the task. As discussed at last month's meeting our November meeting will begin at 5:00 PM to enable us to follow protocol and present the changes to the Board. Again, following current bylaws procedures, these revised bylaws draft will be emailed or mailed to all members in good standing 20 days prior to a vote of acceptance.

Friday, Nov 8th the Board will welcome the new MG class of 2020 with the traditional Welcome Breakfast. Board members please sign up for your food contribution. Set up is at 10:00 in the Learning Center room, 4th floor, with breakfast at 10:30. This is for the new class, Joel, Karen R. and Board members only.

Another date to remember is graduation for the hard-working class of 2019 on Sat. November 16th at 12:00 at McFaul Environmental Center, Wyckoff. Members in good standing may attend. The class of 2018 will be the food planners.

Although it is only October, we need to think about the holiday party. Hank will do his usual superb job, and all will support him. Think about anything you'd like done differently. If there is a suggested change of venue, it would have to be pursued now as we have found that most places book a year in advance. Ideas please.

If you cannot attend a MG meeting, please send your report to another Bd. Member to deliver. Also, when there is a need to vote on an item, please make every effort to attend or send a representative to cast your vote. The November meeting beginning at 5:00 PM is a critical meeting, please make every effort to attend.

Vice President:

No report.

Recording Secretary:

Suzanne Danzig requested approval of the September minutes.

***Motion:** Arnie Friedman motioned to approve the September 24 minutes, Dennis Gretchen seconded, and all were in favor.

Corresponding Secretary:

Miriam is looking to obtain emails addresses for class of 2020.

Treasurer’s Report:

Opening balance as of August 31, 2019.....	\$10,635.24
Income.....	\$ 0.00
Expenses.....	\$300.00
Closing balance as of September 30, 2019.....	\$10,335.24

***Motion:** Terri Pegg motioned to approve treasurers’ report, Joseph Cooper seconded and all approved.

Community Outreach Events and Volunteers:

Lengthy report last month covered all events.

Garden Club Liaison:

November is the last month for most garden club meetings; most club meetings will resume in February.

Class Liaison:

Marie is taking orders for sweatshirts. The class is going to NJ Native Plant Society presentation. 10 members of the class showed up at The Hermitage. Marie asked how to continue the camaraderie and discussions that they have established rather than simply announcements at the beginning of our MG meetings. Suggested a group meeting between the Board meeting and the speaker. Suzanne suggested a more organized announcement session with Q&A, perhaps every other meeting. The new Class liaisons are Karen Sasso and Lorelei Koran.

Speakers Bureau:

Arnie had a request for a speaker on composting.

Publicity:

Patrick reported that Facebook is moving along, still needs to work on getting Pinterest and Instagram up and running. Trying to get information into the Hackensack Chronicle.

Hospitality:

Hank asked about reimbursements, Carolyn will send him voucher to be submitted to treasurer. Holiday party date still not confirmed but usually the first Tuesday in December. Looking for suggestions for a new venue, some people are not happy with Van Saun due to multiple rooms would rather have one large room. Open for suggestions.

Membership:

Terri reported than 4 people have paid already, and one paid their 2019 dues. Members must pay by February 1st, 2020 to be in the directory.

Newsletter:

No report.

Website:

Joseph reported that the Home Page, Potting Shed, 2020 meetings and Events have been updated on www.MGofBC.org.

Membership Portal Progress: Since my last meeting we have submitted eight change requests to Matt and four have been completed. Currently I am working with Volunteer Reporting and Membership for completion of three issues involving data entry and reports.

Due to tighter security on malware and viruses, newer Chrome and Edge browsers are not displaying scripted pages without additional user inputs, I have asked the website host to add an SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) Certificate to our site.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension:

- The new MG class started its training this month. They look forward to meeting the association at the upcoming breakfast. There are many motivated individuals who will take their place on work teams at approved volunteer sites. We have a total of 18 new students.
- Rich Buckley will deliver a pest management/disease management workshop on Friday, Nov 1 in the Learning Center. Rich is Director of Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Lab and is a popular speaker with great humor. Come 10:30-1:30pm, bring your own snacks and maybe something to share. All MG's are welcome to attend the workshop. Note this a 3-hour class.
- The 2020 Bergen County Fall Harvest Festival/MG & 4-H Fair will be Sat/Sun Sept 26/27. This is a week later than usual, but Rosh Hashana is the week prior. The MG class of 2020 will fill the tent with educational displays. Every MG from every class is welcome to attend!
- Planting at new Overpeck Park Friday, October 25th at 10:00am.

RMGANJ:**Report?****Sunshine:**

Nothing to report.

Site Coordinator Liaison:

Melody indicated that there will only be 4 classes available for volunteer coordinators to make a presentation for their sites.

Programs:

Anne Meore will tonight's presenter, to discuss Hort Therapy.

November's speaker will be Mark Gussen on "Hydroponics".

Donna spoke to Carolyn about having a rep from Hudson Seeds come and speak but he wants \$1000.

Would we be interested if we were able to get 3 groups to go in on the cost with us? Possibly Essex and Passaic if they are reorganized. One of Rockland's organizations inquired about going in on a speaker years ago. Donna will investigate the contacts from other MG organizations.

Volunteer Records:

Donna Karpel not in attendance but informed Carolyn she had no report this month.

Old Business:

Janet Schulz reported on the slate of officers nominating committee meeting. The proposed slate of officers for next year is; Melody Corcoran – President, Pat Vella – Treasurer, Jane Nicholson – Recording Secretary, Miriam Taub – Corresponding secretary.

Janet reported that they were unable to secure a VP and asked if any of the current board members were interested. Suzanne Danzig offered after confirmation that the role as VP was not to step into the President's position at the end of terms. Janet Schulz accepted the offer.

This will be presented to the membership at tonight's meeting and ask for any other nominations from the membership.

***Motion:** Joseph Copper motioned to approve the slate of officers as presented, Arnie Friedman seconded, and all were in favor.

Carolyn brought up the idea of a Mentoring Program. Ocean County MG has an established mentoring program going and has some suggestions outlined. Joseph suggested we begin by perhaps having some of our senior MGs assist with "Hotline". This was in effect years ago, how do we reestablish this? Carolyn would like to continue this discussion.

New Business:

Meeting adjourned at 6:58pm.

***Motion:** Arnie motioned to adjourn, and Joseph seconded.