

**Master Gardeners of Bergen County
Board of Directors Minutes for February 2020**

The Meeting was called to order by President Melody Corcoran at 5:30 pm.

Present at the meeting: Miriam Taub, Joseph Cooper, Patricia Vellas, Jane Nicholson Suzanne Danzig, Hank Annunziata, Melody Corcoran, Karen Riede, Karen Sasso, Arnie Friedman, Terri Pegg, and Donna Karpel.

Presidents Report:

No Report

Melody announced the retirement of Hank Annunziata, Chairman of Hospitality. The members of the Board wished him "Good Luck" and thanked him for his service. Melody will search for another Chairman of Hospitality.

Melody stated that she had no formal President's Report but that topics in "Old Business" and "New Business" would address her issues.

Vice President:

No report.

Recording Secretary:

The January minutes were provided by Suzanne Danzig for Jane Nicholson who was not present as the January meeting.

***Motion:** Terri Pegg requested a motion to approve the minutes from January 21, 2020, Arnie Friedman seconded, and all were in favor, none opposed.

Corresponding Secretary:

Miriam reported that she sent two get well cards to Olga Newey and Susan Gurak.

Treasurer's Report:

Pat Vellas, Treasurer, stated that she filed our State Annual Report Certificate and provided the Board with the current Treasurer's Report as outlined below:

Report Month Ending January 31,2020	
Opening balance as of December 31, 2019.....	\$.10,355.43
Total Income.....	\$ 1,087.00
Expenses.....	\$ 298.50
Closing balance as of January 31,2020.....	\$ 11,143.93

***Motion:** Hank Annunziata made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. the motion was seconded by Miriam Taub and all were in favor, none opposed.

Page 2

Old Business

- There are one or two Committee Chair Annual Reports that have not been submitted to date. All reports received have been archived by the Recording Secretary.
- Volunteer hours submissions will be finalized this month. See Donna Karpel's Volunteer Records report for details.
- State Report will be submitted in March by Karen Riede. The Board will receive copies on Outreach, etc.
- State systems are being implemented slowly and Karen will seek the assistance of Dominic and other volunteers to input material. No one is to use the Online Volunteer Reporting system and this page will be removed from the system eventually.

Committee Reports

Community Outreach

Karen Riede

Karen announced that various Earth Day and environment fair requests for MG participation have been received and some of the details are still being worked out. Two events will be announced at the MG volunteer meeting tonight. Of the following events the MG students will sign up in class for the Party of the Planet only:

- 1) Bergen County Multicultural Family Fun Day at Van Saun Park in Paramus on Sat., April 18, from noon to 4 pm. The rain date will be Sat. April 25. Karen is looking for people to staff craft tables, educational displays and planting demonstrations. All ideas are welcomed there will be 2 MGs per table. Volunteers may come in shifts but should be aware that parking will be difficult later in the day
- 2) Bergen County Zoo Party for the Planet, Bergen County Zoo at Van Saun Park, Sunday April 19 from 10 am to 4 pm.

A discussion ensued regarding banners for the MGofBC. It was noted that we have used a number of banners in participating events but they are of different sizes and types. An ideal banner should be easily portable, yet of a decent size to be noticed. Arnie volunteered to follow up on obtaining a stand for such a banner. It should be noted that we do not have an official logo and no logo should be used on any banner we may design at this point in time.

RCE Report to MG Association Board Mtg

By Joel Flagler

- Reports of the fall home invasion for the brown Marmorated Stink Bug hits full blast, and to a lesser degree the Asian Lady Beetle, seeking shelter indoors in order to survive the winter.
- With the recent winter temperatures above normal, it increases the successful over-wintering survival for ticks and other insect pests and will be high
- Best wishes to Robert M. Goodman, who will be stepping down at the end of his term as Executive Dean of the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences and Executive Director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station on June 30, 2020.
- There is a new search for the Dean of Research at SEBS since Dr. Brad Hillman is stepping down.

PAGE 3

- Rutgers Day is Sat., April 25, 2020.
- Rutgers NJAES Pete Nitzsche has been named Director of Rutgers Research Farms, including Snyder Farm.
- If anyone is interested in a Horticultural Therapy Intern which is a part-time position at the East Orange VA Medical Center & Lyons VA Medical Center, please contact Joel Flagler at flagler@njaes.rutgers.edu.
- Industrial Hemp Working Group in South Jersey has been formed as hemp becomes a cash crop for NJ farmers.

Class Liaison:

No Report. Classes begin March 6. Karen Sasso represented Lorelei at meeting.

Speakers Bureau:

No Report

Arnie stated that our substantial list of speakers continues to grow. Linda Flynn will be added to the list. Arnie recently gave a new presentation to the Ramsey Garden which was well received and earned \$125.00

Garden Club Liaison:

No report. The date for the Tea is to be announced for sometime in June, see Program Report

Publicity:

No Report

Hospitality:

Hank Annunziata announced his retirement and Melody will search for a replacement.

Programs

Donna Faustini provided the following report via e mail.

- February: We are having Michael Wilson "Rock Gardening," he is charging the club \$200.
- March: We are having Carrie Buchman from the North Jersey Orchid Society. She will be doing an introduction to orchids for us. She is charging \$150 and she actually will buy \$150 worth of orchids and raffle them for free at the meeting.
- April: At our Joint Meeting, Dr. Randi Eckel from Toadshade Farm will be presenting Propagation of Natives. She will have plants and seeds for sale. The cost to the club will be \$190.
- May: Chuck Steed, a naturalist, will present a program on Backyard Critters. Very knowledgeable and informative! We will pay him \$190.

I have bees for September too.

We booked a date for the Tea which is headed by Miriam Taub, for June 9. We have the room from 4-9. I am also working on next year's calendar.

Page 4

Website:

Joseph Cooper

Updated MGofBC.org the Homepage, Potting Shed, Webpages.

Corresponded with Matt Frawley regarding funds allotted for project, he checked his records and replied back, there was not outstanding invoices.

Reviewed new email system with Corresponding Secretary (Miriam Taub). She will use it for a few months and provide us with suggestions for streamlining the process.

Prepared the 2019 Website Chairperson Report and emailed to President.

RMGANJ:

Karen Riede

No report

The Board discussed the process for nominating the Award for Excellence candidates. Besides recommendations from the Board it was suggested that Volunteer Coordinators might contribute to the list. Karen Riede mentioned that the list would be “run by Joel” before the final vote by the Board.

Site Coordinator Liaison:

Melody Corcoran

All site coordinators were contacted to confirm or update meeting times and date and contact information. The updated list is being published in the March Potting Shed. The list will include links to volunteer site websites. Thanks to Miriam Taub for that suggestion and adding the links.

The syllabus for the next MG class semester is out and I am working with Karen Riede to schedule in-class site coordinator presentations for the sites that did not present during the fall semester.

Membership

Terri Pegg

Reminders have been sent regarding paying dues and the need to pay dues will be in the Potting Shed. Approximately 135 dues have been paid to date, last year the total was 152.

Terri will work with Joseph to identify and update all her data that is required for the website. Being able to identify the members who have paid their dues is necessary for many of our activities, such as being eligible for receiving Potting Shed, receiving an invitation to the Summer Picnic and qualifying for the Award for Excellence.

Page 5

Volunteer Records:

Donna Karpel

There will be no Lifetime Master Gardener this year.

Reminders have been sent regarding paying dues and submitting hours. Donna will not be taking any more information at the end of this month. She has received 129 reports to date.

This year has been the highest ever in reported hours, 10,688. She attributes this to extraordinary amount of hours put in by the 2019 class (mostly at Thielke) and more hours put in by the usual volunteers.

The number one site this year was Thielke with 2,255 hours, second was Garretson (which was first last year) with 1262 hours and third was Skylands Manor Holiday Open House with 976 hours..

New Business:

Melody Corcoran

The Summer Picnic will be held at Rohsler's this year. Donna and Suzanne will work together on the planning. Other sites for future years will be explored to see if they meet our criteria. Invitation will be limited to those who have paid their dues. Last year 300 invitation were extended. We will rely on the Website to identify dues paying members.

Melody presented the NY/NJ Trail Conference (Habit Helpers) for consideration as an approved Volunteer Site as it is currently meeting our criteria for an approved site. Diane Van Kempen has agreed to be the Site Coordinator.

* **Motion:** Donna Karpel made the motion to make the NY/NJ Trail Conference Headquarters (with a two-year temporary approval) an approved Volunteer Site. Suzanne Danzig seconded the motion, all agreed, none opposed.

The Board also discussed exploring other sites such as DeKorte Park for Bergenites living in the south.

In order to encourage more member participation and involvement in our activities, Melody proposed that we add an Open Forum to our Board Meeting Agenda. This would afford members a platform to present their ideas and suggestions to the Board. After a discussion, the Board decided that they would hold an Open Forum every other month. The Forum would begin at 6:45 with Melody as moderator. It would be placed on the Agenda after New Business and before Adjournment.

Motion: Arnie Friedmen proposed that an Open Forum be added to the Agenda starting at 6:45 as of the March meeting and limited to members only. The motion was seconded by Terri Pegg, all were in favor, none opposed.

Page 6

Adjournment

***Motion:** Terri Pegg made a motion to adjourn the Meeting, the motion was seconded by Joseph Cooper, all agreed, none opposed.

The meeting was closed at 7:01 pm.