

Draft Page I

**Master Gardeners of Bergen County
Board of Directors Minutes for August 25, 2020**

The Meeting was called to order by President Melody Corcoran at 6:20 pm. The meeting was conducted via ZOOM with Arnie Friedman as host.

Present at the meeting: Miriam Taub, Patricia Vellas, Jane Nicholson, Donna Faustini, Suzanne Danzig, Melody Corcoran, Karen Riede, Autumn O'Shea, Arnie Friedman, Karen Pernell, Sandi Liberti, Terri Pegg, Lorelei Koran and Janet Schultz

Presidents Report:

Transcribed as follows, "Welcome to our newest board members- Sandi Liberti, Hospitality Chair, and Autumn O'Shea, Volunteer Records Chair. Donna Karpel is moving to Florida and Autumn is her replacement.

Diane Van Kempen also moved away. Linda Flynn, Class of 2016 has replaced Diane as the site coordinator for the NYNJ Trail Conference Headquarters Habitat Helpers volunteer site in Mahwah.

With Rutgers suspending all in-person MG activities though at least the end of 2020, we must hold all meetings and educational programs online until further notice. I requested an email vote by the Board Members on obtaining a Zoom account for the Master Gardeners and a majority approved the expenditure. Arnie Friedman set up the monthly account and used it for a virtual garden tour for the Bogota Library on August 18.

Karen Riede has set up a Rutgers Zoom accounts for us. Karen will explain how these work for us. Our new business for this meeting is to discuss the pros and cons of various accounts and decide how we want to move forward online.

Thank you to Miriam Taub and Janet Schultz for pulling the rabbit out of the hat and being able to publish information-filled mid-month updates and Potting Sheds during the suspension of MG activities due to the pandemic."

Vice President:

No report.

Suzanne would like the Board to acknowledge our departed members Donna Karpel and Hank Annunziata with a "Thank You" card for all their years of service and hard work. Miriam Taub, Corresponding Secretary, agreed to get a "real" (not online) card.

Recording Secretary:

The January minutes were provided by Jane Nicholson for the last meeting of February, 2020..

Draft p.2

***Motion:** Arnie Friedman requested a motion to approve the minutes from February 25,2020 , Janet Schultz , seconded, and all were in favor, none opposed.

Corresponding Secretary:

Miriam reported that she sent a sympathy cards to the family of Bill Gilligan, to Diane Van Kempen on the death of her husband, and to Sharon Ma on the death of her mother; and a get-well card to Susan Gurak (February).

Treasurer’s Report:

Pat Vellas, provided a detailed Treasurer’s Report, summarized as follows:

Year to date, July 31, 2020

Opening balance as of December 31, 2019.....	\$10,355.43
Total Income.....	\$ 2,747.00
Total Expensed	\$ 605.82
Closing balance as of July,2020	\$ 12,496.61

***Motion:** Arnie Friedman made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report . The motion was seconded by Suzanne Danzig , and all were in favor, non opposed.

Old Business

Open Forum

As MG monthly meetings have been suspended until further notice, the Board members discussed other methods of engaging members using on line meetings and presentations (format to be determined). The chat feature of Zoom could be used to introduce questions but a moderator would be needed for this Q and A portion.

Committee Reports

MG Class Liaison

Lorelei Karon

Lorelei stated that the MG Class of 2020 had completed the educational requirement on line. They still need their work hours to finish. Lorelei, herself, has started a new garden club in Hackensack which currently has 15 members. They have done a hydroponic workshop and get together at the Hackensack Community Garden. She will provide Potting Shed with more information.

Draft p.3

Community Outreach

Karen Riede

Karen will provide the status of Community Outreach during the discussion of New Business

Garden Club Liaison

Miriam Taub

Nothing new to report. Arnie has been getting requests for his virtual presentations from garden clubs. As noted previously Lorelei will be providing the Potting Shed information about her new garden club in Hackensack.

Hospitality

Sandi Liberti

Nothing to report. Being new to the position, Sandi is open to suggestions. She has not met with Hank and will need to find out about the coffee urns. Suzanne and Melody will help her get in touch with Hank.

Membership

Terri Pegg

Nothing to Report. One paid dues sent to Treasurer.

Newsletter

Miriam Taub

Janet Schultz

No new report

Miriam has sent links to Webinars, etc. Just a reminder that contributors need to send material timely for Potting Shed and mid month updates. If they do not meet timeframes they cannot be published.

**Draft p.4
Programs**

Donna Faustini

All months have been booked for the remainder of 2020.

No bookings yet for 2021 (virtual or live)

September	Bees (Honey at a later date)	Frank Mortimer
October	Winterizing Roses	Michael Wilson ?
November	Orchids	Carey Buchman

Please correct names/spellings if required. Thanks

Publicity

Patrick Lull

Not in attendance, no report received to date.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension Liaison

Karen Reide

One Bergen Plaza has been closed and all staff is working from home. Class of 2020 completed educational component of their course. Possibly 18 students will comprise this class at graduation. New classes were designed using on line classes from Rutgers's Webex, Zoom, U Tube and Webinars. Karen found the research both educational and exhausting . Presently Joel and Karen are working on "Tree" (Please explain ...no further info in my notes)

RMGANJ

Karen Pennell

Karen provided the RMGANJ report as follows:

There will be no State Conference in 2020 due to Covid policies.

In 2021 the State Conference will be virtual and not an in-person conference. The details are to be worked out.

The RMGANJ President resigned due to health issues. The VP Deirdre Gallagher moved into the President's position and a new VP was elected to fill in for the remainder of the year.

Site Coordinator Liaison:

Melody Corcoran

No report. Sites closed for remainder of year..

Draft p.5

Speakers Bureau

Arnie Friedman

All speakers will do virtual presentations. See MG Website for presenters. Arnie's virtual presentation for the Bogata Library was very successful. He is enjoying using this medium and looking forward to adding new elements to his presentations. Arnie is concerned that our MG Website has not been updated, for example, it still lists the old Executive Board.

Volunteer Records

Autumn J. O'Shea

Autumn has recently taken on this position from Donna Karpel and has provided the following report/notes which illustrates her new responsibilities:

Better Impact system-inputting MG's into the system, set-up categories and activities scheduler descriptions, set- up message boards on homepage for all volunteers to see, going back inputting past hours on going

Working with Karen Reide on set-up on new system

Taking past paperwork from Donna K and inputting in my system, plus hard-copies of past

What will our group symbol be "MG of BC" or something different for category an activity for better impact system on descriptions.

Getting MG volunteers to build their profiles and how to teach the Better Impact system.

The task is daunting. To date she and Karen have decided not to input inactive member files. The paper EXCEL system provided by Donna included files from 2008-2019. They have been receiving help with the Better Impact system from the Passaic Co. Training Coordinator. The acronym,/initials , "MGofBG", chosen for the Better Impact system is the same as our Website but may have to be changed according to the dictates of the new system. Karen will let us know if it has been accepted. Autumn also asked about who needed class pins. She will have to order them and needs instructions. There are issues with the pins that need to be resolved.

Website

Joseph Cooper

No report, Joseph not in attendance

Board members have noted that the site needs updating. Melody will contact Joseph for follow up.

Draft p.6

New Business:

Melody Corcoran

Online Meetings -Rutgers Webex and Zoom

Karen Reide proposed to set up Arnie Friedman with Rutger's Guest.net ID so that he could use the Rutger's on line offerings such as Webex, Zoom , Skype and TEAM. They all work somewhat differently. For our future virtual meetings, it was decided that Zoom was our best option. We will be using the Rutger's Zoom account in the future which is free. This would save us the \$14.00 monthly Zoom charges we would have been paying.

Virtual Party for the Planet September 18

We have been asked to participate in this event but they need our response before Sept. 1. As the Board was not clear about the nature of our participation and it was unlikely we could prepare something before the requested timeframe, it was decided that we would decline to participate.

Board Elections

Karen Parnell stated that according to our By Laws, we should have held an election for our Executive Board members sometime in March or May. It was decided that because the length of service had been changed to three years, the current members in the positions of Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Recording Secretary would be canvassed confidentially to see if they would be interested in remaining for an additional two years (thru 2022). Janet Schultz agree to call the members in question. Additionally, it was decided we would need a nominating committee to resolve the issue.

*** Motion :** Janet Schultz made a motion **to** appoint a nominating committee for the three positions of Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary" the motion was seconded by Arnie Friedman, all were in favor, non opposed.

Adjournment

***Motion :** Arnie Friendman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Jane Nicholson, all agreed , non opposed.

The meeting was closed at 7:00 pm.