

**Master Gardener Association of Bergen County
Board Meeting Minutes – September 28, 2021**

Present: Co-Hosting – Melody Corcoran and Arnie Friedman, Karen Riede, Joseph Cooper, Suzanne Danzig, Theresa Schneider, Elizabeth Gil, Miriam Taub, Herb Arbeiter, Autumn O’Shea, Donna Faustini, Keith Mazanec

Absent: Sandi Liberti, Karen Pennell, Pat Vellas

The meeting was called to order by President Corcoran at 5:35 PM

Officer Reports:

President – Melody Corcoran

President’s Report September 28, 2021

Welcome to Liz Gil, class of 2019, our new site coordinator liaison and newest board member.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Fall Festival by recruiting volunteers, helping with exhibit set-up and take-down, providing refreshments, and being there during the day to assist the class members as needed. Another successful Fall Festival was made possible by old and new Master Gardeners working together.

There is a new section in the bylaws appendix listing the New Site Application Guidelines and the Delisting Procedure. Take a look if you haven’t already. Tonight’s agenda includes two other sections that need to be discussed and included in the bylaws appendix – travel time policy and recognition pin policy and procedures.

Vice President – Suzanne Danzig

No report.

Treasurer – Pat Vellas

In Pats absence, Melody summarized the Treasurer’s report. Please note that as there were no Board meetings during the summer months, this report covered a four month period: May 1, 2021 through August 31, 2021.

Four Months Ending – August 31, 2021

Opening Balance as of: April 30, 2021	\$ 12,014.38
Income: Membership Fees:	\$ 280.00
Membership Donations:	\$ 10.00
Speaker Fee Donations: (7/21/21)	\$ 400.00

Total Income:	\$ 690.00
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Treasurer’s Report cont.....

Expenses:	Bruce Crawford – speaker fee	\$	(150.00)
	Gayle Clayton – website fee		(195.00)
Total Expenses:		\$	(345.00)
Closing Balance as of August 31, 2021		\$	12,359.38
Total Outstanding checks:		\$	0.00
Bank Statement Balance: as of April 30, 2021		\$	12,359.38

***Motion:** Arnie motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Report and Joseph seconded the motion – APPROVED.

Recording Secretary – Keith Mazanec:

I stated that the final copy of the May 25, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes had been sent out to all Board Members for review, and that if there were no changes or questions, propose that a motion be made to approve them.

***Motion:** Suzanne motioned to approve the May, 2021 Meeting Minutes; Arnie seconded the motion – APPROVED.

Corresponding Secretary – Miriam Taub:

Five or six people have sent in emails via the website. They were forwarded to Karen Riede and she has responded to them.

Old Business:**Nominating Committee**

Joseph stated that the Nominating Committee was made up of three members; himself, Karen Pennell and Janet Schulz. The Committee met, and is recommending the following names for the offices of President and Vice President for two-year terms commencing in 2022.

The recommendations are:

President – Melody Corcoran

Vice President – Elizabeth Gil

***Motion:** Suzanne motioned to accept the recommendation of the Nominating Committee. Arnie seconded. – APPROVED.

2021 State Fall Conference – The conference has been cancelled.

Recognition Pin Policy and Procedures

Karen Pennell, Suzanne, Autumn and Melody worked on verbiage for the purpose of documenting the Association's policy for awarding recognition service pins. Melody read the new policy and procedure. There was discussion as to the inception date for the volunteer hours' requirement. Melody to re-word the policy, and make adjustments as needed. Arnie moved to table further discussion to allow Melody to revise the policy.

Travel Time Policy

Melody read the Travel Time policy, which had been sent out to all Board members prior to the meeting. There was a discussion on the history of travel time. Joseph gave the background of travel time. Although it has existed for some time, it was never written into the by-laws.

***Motion:** - Arnie motioned to approve the amendment, and Donna seconded the motion. Theresa asked Melody if she could add an example into the Travel Time policy in order to give it further clarification. Melody will include an example, and send it out to Board members for their review.

Committee Reports:

Community Outreach Liaison – Arnie Friedman

Arnie reported that the Speakers Bureau is presently booking talks for the fall and spring of 2022. Arnie stated that it would be good to have a standing committee that could be called upon to handle requests when Master Gardeners are asked to do presentations where displays and handouts are useful. Karen Riede suggested that Arnie reach out to Jeff Chan, the site coordinator at Van Saun Park, as he has many of the materials Arnie was referring to.

Hospitality – Sandi Liberti

No report.

Membership – Theresa Schneider

As of now, we have 138 members who have paid their 2021 membership dues. Membership activity slowed during the summer months. Theresa is updating the website as needed.

MG Class Liaison – N/A

Newsletter – Miriam Taub

Continue to send out the monthly and mid-month editions of the Potting Shed. This month (September) we also distributed a special edition devoted to native plants.

- Garden Club Liaison – Janet Schulz – No report.

Programs – Donna Faustini

Elaine Silverstein will be tonight's speaker. At October's meeting, our speaker will be Leslie Purness. November's presentation is entitled "Plant Geeks are us" and the speaker is from Broken Arrow Nursery in Connecticut. For January, I am working on getting someone to do a presentation on mushrooms and fungi.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension Liaison – Karen Riede

Karen Riede submitted the following written report:

RCE Report to MG Association Board Mtg. 9/28/21

Joel Flagler

1. The Fall Harvest Festival was a huge success. The weather was ideal and the MG educational tent was filled with really beautiful displays on topics ranging from pollinators to propagation to compost and invasive plants and more. The MG classes of 2020 and 2021 are to be commended for the fine displays. Visiting young-uns loved the activities and take-home stuff too. The Farmers Market reminded us all of Bergen's agricultural roots, and 4-H had two tents with stuff for kids of all ages. Special thanks to Rohsler's Allendale Nursery for donating all the fine flowering and foliage plants that gussied up our tent. And a huge thanks to Secor Farms in Mahwah for bringing all the corn stalks for us, and the excellent farm-fresh donuts and cider and pumpkins.
2. There is large and growing interest in our next cycle of MG training. We welcome more to the considerable list of new students for 2022. That online training will run from February through June 2022. We will use the excellent templates and recorded lessons that the RMG curriculum committee (Madeline Flahive DiNardo and Karen Riede and team) created and delivered in 2021. We look forward.
3. There may be some in-person plantings in a county park this October, with the BC Environmental Council. It is just too hard to do a planting online. So I will let you know. All are welcome to participate--especially the newer students who have more initial hours to return. It will likely be on a Friday at 10:00 am and include a free lunch (Mmmm).
4. The State MG Association of NJ has made a big push toward standardization, so that all counties have programs that resemble each other closely. Toward that end, Bergen will reduce the # volunteer hours required to become a certified MG; from 100 hours to 60 hours. This takes effect immediately. So... keep those hours coming, and stay involved; keep track of how much you volunteer so we can report it accurately! Participate in the programs and locations you like most. We are so grateful for all you do. That includes Rutgers and Bergen County-really!
5. That's all. Stay safe; stay smart; stay strong and healthy!

Joel

RCE Report cont...

Karen reported that as of now, 28 applications have been sent out for the next Master Gardener class cycle.

RMGANJ Report – Herb Arbeiter

Herb reiterated that the 2021 State Fall Conference has been cancelled. There had been some discussion about having it in the spring, but it was decided to make it next fall.

Brian Schilling gave a talk at the meeting. In 2021, there has been a 41% decline in the budget set aside to fund programs. It is important to report all volunteer hours, as this has an effect on budget allocations.

Site Coordinator Liaison – Elizabeth Gil

Elizabeth reached out to all the sites in August. All are up and running with the exception of the helpline. New Bridge Hospital has made some policy changes, and has reached out directly to their volunteers.

Volunteer Records - Autumn O'Shea

MG of BC committee notes from Volunteer Records Chair for September 28, 2021: submitted by Autumn J O'Shea

MG hours so far for 2021- hours as of 9/28/2021 for all actives: 1245.67 hours. There are 30 volunteers using Better Impact to log their hours.

New activities created for volunteers in Better Impact: Fall Harvest Festival at Van Saun Park and Skylands Manor Holiday event. Please remember to include me with site changes and take-aways or new sites so I can update Better Impact.

As per Rutgers Cooperative Extension, our service award pins are being updated so what we have on hand for now is all that's available. We have a stock of everything other than graduation pins. An order was placed for graduation pins back in May 2021; just waiting new design.

Website – Joseph Cooper

Nothing much to report. People are working directly with the website.

New Business:

Karen Pennell requested that Miriam add RMGANJ minutes and RMGANJ delegate responsibilities to the RMGANJ bylaws on the website. This will require changes to the website by Gayle Clayton, the designer. Following was a discussion of how the website is presently organized. The MG of BC and RMGANJ documents will have to be separated, again by the designer. Miriam can't do this herself.

Joseph suggested we consider adding a “lectures” section to the site. Miriam mentioned that the homepage includes a “things to do” section. There was further discussion regarding content.

Melody recommended that we get back to this discussion at next month’s meeting.

***Motion:** Arnie motioned to adjourn to meeting. Motion was seconded by Joseph. Meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.