

**Master Gardener Association of Bergen County
Board Meeting Minutes – February 22, 2022**

Present: Hosting – Melody Corcoran, Arnie Friedman, Karen Riede, Joseph Cooper, Theresa Schneider, Miriam Taub, Herb Arbeiter, Elizabeth Gil, Pat Vellas, Donna Faustini, Keith Mazanec, Martha Carlucci

Absent: Suzanne Danzig, Janet Schulz

The meeting was called to order by President Corcoran at 5:30 PM

Officer Reports:

President – Melody Corcoran

Sandi Liberti, who has served as Hospitality Chair for the past two years, is moving to Pennsylvania in March. Thank you to Sandy for having served in this position.

Please welcome Martha Carlucci, class of 2021, to the board as our new Hospitality Chair. I have assured her that we will give her all the assistance she might need in planning our various hospitality events; all she needs to do is ask.

I reached out to someone who noted an interest in Publicity on the membership renewal form. However, when I told her the position would include posting on Facebook, she was no longer interested.

In a normal year, February is the month in which we:

- Choose a summer picnic date and choose and book a location. The last two picnics had a very poor turnout. We need to decide if we want to continue having a summer picnic or not.
- Begin requesting nominations for the RMGANJ annual “Award for Excellence.” Will there be a fall RMGANJ conference this year and will there be awards?
- Begin planning for one-day events through Community Outreach.

As the committee reports are given tonight, we can cover these topics.

Vice President – Elizabeth Gil

No report.

Treasurer – Pat Vellas

Pat summarized the Treasurer’s report for the period ending January 31, 2022.

Opening Balance as of: December 31, 2021	\$ 13,083.00
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Income:	Membership fees	\$ 760.00
	Member donation	\$ 151.00
	Speaker donation	\$ 50.00

Total Income:	\$ 961.00
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Expenses:	Sandy Pancrazi – HOH expense	\$ (20.15)
	Cynthia Drennan – HOH expense	\$ (56.44)
	Miriam Taub – various	\$ (147.74)
	Dorothy Smullen – Speaker’s fee	\$ (100.00)

Total Expenses:	\$ (324.33)
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Closing Balance as of January 31, 2022	\$ 13,719.67
Total Outstanding checks: Miriam Taub – various	\$ (147.74)
Dorothy Smullen	\$ (100.00)

Bank Statement Balance as of January 31, 2022	\$ 13,967.41
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In addition, the Annual Report has been filed with the I.R.S.

Pat inquired if we want to make a donation to the Center for Food Action.

Motion: Arnie motioned that we approve a donation to the Center for Food Action in the amount of \$250.00. Donna seconded the motion. All in attendance voted “Yes” - APPROVED.

Motion: Arnie motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Report and Miriam seconded the motion. All in attendance voted “Yes.” - APPROVED.

Recording Secretary – Keith Mazanec

Keith stated that the final copy of the January 25, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes had been sent out to all Board Members for review, and that if there were no changes or questions, proposed that a motion be made to approve them.

Recording Secretary's report – cont...

***Motion:** Donna motioned to approve the January, 2022 meeting minutes; Arnie seconded the motion. All in attendance voted "Yes." APPROVED.

Corresponding Secretary – Miriam Taub:

Miriam distributed the February Potting Shed and February Mid-Month Potting Shed to our distribution lists. Miriam also sent an email to a woman on the "Friends of the MG of BC" distribution list to notify her she cannot become an MG in Bergen County without taking the classes. Therefore, Pat Vellas, treasurer, would refund her \$20 check. She was an MG in Houston and wanted to transfer her membership. As per Joel, Karen Riede had previously informed her she would have to take the MG training to become an MG here.

Old Business:

Holiday Open House – Herb spoke with Laura DeFlora (co-chair of the open house committee). Laura told him that the committee will be holding a March meeting and will discuss their budget for this year's event. Once they come up with an estimate of anticipated expenses, they will present their request to the board for consideration.

Archivist records – Theresa contacted Dorothy Penkalski and will arrange a time with her to pick up archived meeting minutes and turn them over to Karen Riede.

Hospitality Supplies – As Sandi Liberti is in the process of relocating, arrangements are being made with her to turn over the hospitality supplies to Martha Carlucci.

2021 Year End Committee Reports – There are still some outstanding year-end committee reports. Once completed, please forward them to Melody and Keith.

Committee Reports

Community outreach liaison - Arnie Friedman

The Speakers Bureau is very active with Zoom talks and planning in-person presentations for later in the year. Arnie is also in the process of developing a new presentation.

Hospitality - Report given by Melody Corcoran

Melody inquired if there was any interest in planning a summer picnic for this year. As we are still in a pandemic, it was agreed this discussion would be put off to a later date. Karen stated that we should consider some type of event in lieu of graduation celebrations for the classes of 2020 and 2021.

Membership – Theresa Schneider

There are 95 paid members for 2022. We are on pace for where we were at this time in 2021.

Arnie stated that he received a call from Jeff Chan. Jeff has all the equipment for events we hold, and he asked if someone could pick it up next time we have an event. In addition, Patrick Lull is in possession of our projector and p.a. system, and we would like it returned. Several attempts have been made to contact him however he is difficult to reach. Joseph offered to contact him.

Newsletter – Miriam Taub

The March Potting Shed will include the list of volunteer sites with basic information for each site. This is the same list that is posted under “Volunteer Sites” on our website. Miriam sent an email to the site coordinators on February 16, asking them to update their site information for this list no later than February 25. Only a few have replied so far. The email also explained that the Potting Shed will include a feature story on at least one site per issue, beginning with the March Mid-March Potting Shed. Miriam and Liz had discussed possible questions the site coordinators, or their designees, should answer to encourage volunteering at their site. For example: “What makes your site unique?”

Programs – Donna Faustini

Tonight’s speaker will be Don Torino, whose talk is titled “Butterflies in the Garden.” Arnie Friedman will be our speaker in March.

April will be a joint meeting with Passaic, and we are having a challenge securing a speaker. Passaic is proposing Marc Gussen, Director at the Closter Nature Center, do a presentation on hydroponics. There is also an opportunity to have Kerri Ann Mendez, a nationally recognized speaker from Maine, present to the group. She has agreed to a fee of \$350, well below what she normally would receive, however, she is only available at either 4:00 PM or 5:00 PM for the presentation. Melody will ask members at tonight’s general meeting if they would be interested in holding a Zoom meeting at 5:00 PM in April in lieu of the regular 7:30 PM meeting.

Rutgers Cooperation Extension liaison – Karen Riede

RCE Report to MG Association Board Mtg. 2.22.22

Joel Flagler

1. The Rutgers Cooperative Extension office in Morris County is working on the funding and approval for a new ornamental horticulture position. If approved it would include oversight and coordination of the MG program, education and outreach, working with nurseries and other ornamental hort professionals, and other related duties. If approved it will be advertised widely and we will be sure to keep the MG community informed.

RCE report – cont...

2. RCE is working with the County Dept. of Parks to meet guidelines for soil testing at Ridgewood Duck Pond County Park. The dredged material from that pond must be analyzed to be confirmed free of metals and other contaminants. If deemed safe the soil can be repurposed. If problems are identified there are strict guidelines for moving and managing such soils. Hopefully, things will progress as planned and that park will undergo major change. The MGs will be called upon to work with the Parks Dept. in replanting the park. That will be the 4th time in 25 years that our MGs have replanted that particular park. We are glad to work with Parks to create a better space for visitors. We can also have important input for the planning process and selection of plants to install.

3. Dr. Bruce Clarke of RCE has retired after nearly 40 years as the turf grass guru at Rutgers. A Bergen county native (Cresskill) Bruce mentored me when I arrived in 1987 and helped me develop skills and confidence in assessing turf grass and soil quality and working with schools to improve their sports turf. Bruce is recognized internationally for his excellence in research and teaching and extension. He headed up the team to create the Rutgers Center for Turf Grass Studies--rated #1 in the country. His retirement was effective January 1.

RMGANJ report – Herb Arbeiter

There are no meetings scheduled until March, 2022.

Site coordinator liaison – Liz Gil

Liz reported that the new site coordinator for the Hackensack River Greenway Through Teaneck is Marie Warnke. Master Gardener Rich Karp will be onsite to field questions from volunteers. Gideon Karlick has been removed from the website as site coordinator. Liz sent a memo to all site coordinators reminding them to record any administrative hours they've accrued in Better Impact as well as Rutgers guidelines for in-person volunteering. In addition, Liz and Karen have set up a Zoom presentation, "Introduction to the Volunteer Sites," whereby each site coordinator will give a 5-10 minute presentation of their respective site to encourage students to volunteer at them.

Volunteer Records –

Melody presented Suzanne's report.

YTD hours for 2022 are as follows:

Total Continuing Education – 75 hours

Total Outreach – 45.5 hours

Total Administrative – 113 hours

Total Teaching – 8.5 hours

Total – 242.00

The only outreach sites that have recorded hours at this time of year are Skylands HOH, the Hermitage and Thielke Arboretum. Considering we are still in a pandemic, the volunteer hours have been impressive. We do however need to encourage our volunteers to record their hours in Better Impact.

Website – Joseph Cooper

Miriam’s new email address has been updated on the website.

New Business

NY-NJ Trail Conference Headquarters

Melody presented that the board needs to vote and give approval to make NY-NJ Trail Conference Headquarters a volunteer site.

Motion: Melody made a motion that NY-NJ Trail Conference Headquarters be recognized as a volunteer site. Miriam seconded the motion. All in attendance voted “Yes” – APPROVED.

Events - Party for the Planet 4/24; Ridgefield Park Earth Day 5/21

Miriam will put a request for volunteers in the Potting Shed for upcoming events. Karen will arrange for volunteers with students.

Hybrid Meetings – For now, meetings will be held via Zoom, as we do not have the equipment needed to hold hybrid meetings.

MG member cards – There was a discussion on replacement cards for those members who have lost theirs. The current card will be redesigned with a new logo, and a query will go out as to who needs a new card. Once Theresa receives a listing as to who needs a replacement card, she’ll be able to send them either a PDF of the card or have a hard copy produced through a third party vendor, i.e., Staples.

MG Students – Access to member section on MG of BC website

There was a discussion as to whether or not to give access to MG students to the members section of the website.

Motion – Arnie motioned that only certified Master Gardeners should be allowed to have access to the member section of the website. Pat seconded the motion. Nine – Yes; Zero – No; Two abstentions (Joseph Cooper, Keith Mazanec) – APPROVED.

Adjournment

Motion - A motion was made by Arnie to adjourn the meeting. Joseph seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.