

**Master Gardener Association of Bergen County
Board Meeting Minutes – April 26, 2022**

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

Absent: Arnie Friedman, Janet Schulz

The meeting was called to order by President Corcoran at 6:55 PM.

Officer Reports:

President – Melody Corcoran

Melody thanked Karen Riede and the MG volunteers for their work during the recent outreach events. Melody also forwarded the names of interested MGs to the Hospitality and Speakers Bureau chairs.

Vice President – Elizabeth Gil

No report.

Treasurer – Pat Vellas

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

Opening Balance as of: February 28, 2022	\$ 14,139.17
Income: Membership fees	\$ 360.00
Member donation	\$ 30.00
Speaker donation	\$ 150.00

Total Income:	\$ 540.00
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Expenses:

Total Expenses:	\$ (0.00)
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Closing Balance as of March 31, 2022	\$ 14,679.17
Total Outstanding checks: Don Torino – speaker fee	\$ (150.00)

Bank Statement Balance as of March 31, 2022	\$ 14,829.17
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Motion: Suzanne motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Report and Joseph seconded the motion. All in attendance voted “Yes.” - APPROVED.

Recording Secretary – Keith Mazanec

Keith stated that the final copy of the March 22, 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.

***Motion:** Miriam motioned to approve the March, 2022 meeting minutes; Martha seconded the motion. All in attendance voted “Yes.” APPROVED.

Corresponding Secretary – Miriam Taub:

Miriam reported that the April edition of the Potting Shed was prepared and distributed as well as the mid-month update. April was a relatively quiet month.

Old Business:

Archivist records – Theresa has received two boxes of records from Dorothy Penkalski. The records were well organized and contain correspondence dating back to the early 1990’s. There is good information including a binder and photos. Following a discussion regarding digitizing the records, Theresa offered to look through the records, reach out to Melody and determine which records we want to keep and which ones we want to digitize.

Outreach Events – The Ridgewood Daffodil Day and Party for the Planet at the Van Saun Park Zoo events went well. Since the MG of BC does not have our own tent, we have borrowed Jeffrey Chan’s canopy tent to cover our displays in the past. Arnie and Jeffrey have shared pricing and size information regarding tents, and Arnie has proposed we purchase our own tent for use at future events. Also discussed was the purchase of a MG of BC banner.

Motion: Suzanne motioned that we allocate up to \$250.00 for the purchase of a canopy tent and banner. Joseph seconded the motion. All in attendance voted “Yes” – APPROVED.

Lifetime membership – Currently there is no one who qualifies for Lifetime membership.

Membership cards, logo – Theresa reported that we will not pursue re-issuing membership cards to everyone at this time as we do not have an approved logo. In the interim, she will delete the logo from the current card design and email a PDF replacement card to members upon request.

Motion: - Theresa motioned that cards be printed for all members and distributed during the September 20, 2022 in-person meeting. Donna seconded the motion. There were ten “Yes” votes; one “No” vote. (Joseph Cooper) – Motion APPROVED.

Summer/Fall Picnic for general membership and 2020-2021 graduates

Martha to look into reserving a pavilion at Van Saun County Park for the event. Melody suggested the third week in June, possibly on that Tuesday.

Committee Reports

Community outreach liaison - Arnie Friedman (Melody reporting for Arnie)

The Speakers Bureau has been active. We are looking at developing a new presentation

Hospitality – Martha Carlucci

Martha reported that she has acquired all remaining hospitality related supplies from Sandi Liberti. Pat Vellas will forward a copy of the 2022 budget to Martha.

Membership – Theresa Schneider

There are currently 122 members who have paid their dues for 2022, vs. 138 for the same period in 2021.

Newsletter – Miriam Taub

The May edition of the Potting Shed will profile two volunteer sites: Thielke Arboretum and Garretson Forge and Farm.

- Garden Club liaison – Janet Schulz
No report

Programs – Donna Faustini

David Robinson will be our speaker in May, and will be discussing climate change in New Jersey. Donna is following up with the scheduling person at One Bergen County Plaza in Hackensack to secure a meeting space for our September 20 in-person meeting.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension liaison – Karen Riede

RCE Report to the MG Association Board Meeting 4/26/22

- 1) Save the date of Friday, May 13 and join us if you can for a planting in one of our county parks. Each year we partner with the BC Environmental Council and the Soil Conservation District to plant 300+ perennials in various county parks. More details to come. We typically start at 10:00 am and are done before noon. Free lunch provided for all! Bring shovel, trowel, and gloves.
- 2) A new Green Thumbs 4H Club is being created to respond to requests for school gardens and related projects. Rutgers 4H Dept. will train MG's to be 4H Leaders and they will get credit for their hours. A background check is required by Rutgers for any volunteers who work with youth. More details to come. Let us know if you are interested so we can start the background check process.

3) The BC Fall Harvest Festival (aka MG and 4H Fair) is in Sept, and we need some volunteers from the association to help out. We need folks to help set up tables on Saturday morning 9/17, and also to take down everything on Sunday afternoon 9/18. There is a chance we will want a crew there Fri 9/16 and we will let that be known too. A team from the MG of BC could also help by offering bagels, coffee, etc., in the MG tent on both mornings of the Fair. A person to coordinate t-shirts will also be needed. We can offer some details on that one. Thank you for considering these requests. The Fair is a wonderful opportunity to show off all the great things we do for Bergen County!

Thank you all

Best wishes

Joel

RMGANJ report – Herb Arbeiter

Currently the State Conference is being planned for October 15, 2022. It will be held only in the morning. Brian Schilling will be one of the speakers, and the association is looking for an additional two speakers. One topic will be “Re-entering the World and Looking to the Future of Master Gardeners.” Other possible topics include the spotted lantern fly and replacing lawns with native plants.

Site coordinator liaison – Liz Gil

Nothing official to report. Liz is planning to visit the different sites over the coming weeks.

Volunteer Records – Suzanne Danzig

Volunteer Records Chair Report - 4/26/2022

YTD volunteer hours recorded:

Administration 270

Outreach 416 (including teaching and special projects)

Continuing Ed 219

Month of March hours:

Administration 63

Outreach 186 (including teaching and special projects)

Continuing Ed 55

Four additional MGs logged hours this month bringing a total of 40 MGs recording hours on Better Impact for 2022 and a total of 65 since 1/1/2021.

Anniversary pins:

30 yr	none	
25 yr	none	
15 yr	Vivian DeMarco	class of 2006
	Lillie Steinberg	class of 2006

Volunteer Records cont...

10 yr	Jeffrey Chan	class of 2011
	Laura DeFlora	class of 2011
	Carolyn Gretchen	class of 2011
	Dennis Gretchen	class of 2011
	Robyn Lowenthal	class of 2011
	Miriam Taub	class of 2011
5 yr	Melody Corcoran	class of 2016
	Linda Flynn	class of 2016
	Linda Kochenburger	class of 2016
	Arta Pagano	class of 2016
	Dorothy Penkalski	class of 2016
	Noreen Postman	class of 2016
	Theresa Schneider	class of 2016
	Janet A. Schneider	class of 2016
Noel Schulz	class of 2016	

At this time there is no 35 yr pin but Janet Schulz would have been eligible last year for a 35 yr pin.

I have not calculated the pins for 2021 but do have a list from Autumn for 2020.

I will have to count the pins to be sure we have enough and when and how we are distributing them.

Joseph suggested it be brought up at the state meeting that we do not have a 35year pin and that one should be designed since we now have someone eligible.

Suzanne to cross check dates of service with Karen and Theresa's information to ensure the dates are accurate.

Website – Joseph Cooper

Recently updated the spelling of a person's name.

New Business

Miriam suggested that the MG of BC consider sponsoring a group project. One idea was to partner with a company such as Home Depot or Lowes and collect flower pots for recycling purposes. We could set up a collection station in conjunction with Bergen County recycling event days held several times a year at Bergen Community College or at the Moonachie facility. This is just one idea and I'd need to research to find out if we could get the BCUA and a vendor to participate. After further discussion, it was decided to re-address the group project at our next meeting.

Adjournment

Motion - A motion was made by Joseph to adjourn the meeting. Donna seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.