

**Master Gardener Association of Bergen County
Board Meeting Minutes – Oct. 25, 2022**

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

Guests: Maria Bushman, Susan Sheridan (Holiday Open House-NJBG)

Absent: Martha Carlucci

The meeting was called to order by President Corcoran at 5:33 PM

Officer Reports:

President – Melody Corcoran

President Corcoran welcomed Maria Bushman and Susan Sheridan. They will be presenting their budget request to the MG of BC for the annual Holiday Open House held in December at the New Jersey Botanical Garden.

I attended the RMGANJ fall conference on Zoom. Aside from a few technical issues, the hybrid format seemed to work well. I was surprised that the lecture on Weeds of the Lawn did not cover any IPM methods and relied only on chemical methods of control. Also, the benefits of replacing turf with natives was not mentioned. The lecture on Helpline Diagnostics was very informative. It was a presentation worth saving and I hope a recording becomes available to Conference attendees as a resource for training MGs for the Helpline and the RCE office.

As I mentioned, we have two MGs from the Holiday Open House committee, Sue Sheridan and Maria Bushman, with us today to present their budget proposal for this year's event. We will be discussing this immediately after the officer reports are given.

Vice President – Elizabeth Gil

No report.

Treasurer – Pat Vellas

Pat summarized the Treasurer's report for the period ending Sept. 30, 2022.

Opening Balance as of: Aug. 31, 2022	\$ 14,790.93
Income: Membership fees	\$ 20.00
Member donation	\$ 10.00
Speaker donation	\$ 150.00

Total Income:	\$ 180.00
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Treasurer’s Report cont...

Expenses:	9/18/22-Jeffrey Chan-Harvest Festival signs	\$	(63.95)
	9/20/22-Jim Wright speaker fee	\$	(175.00)
	9/22/22-Martha Carlucci-Fall Harvest Festival food	\$	(275.49)
Total Expenses:		\$	(514.44)

Closing Balance as of Sept. 30, 2022	\$	14,456.49
Total Outstanding checks: Martha Carlucci-Fall Harvest Festival food		(275.49)
Jeffrey Chan-Harvest Festival signs		(63.95)

Bank Statement Balance as of Sept. 30, 2022	\$	14,795.93
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Motion: Arnie motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Report and Suzanne seconded the motion. All in attendance voted “Yes.” - APPROVED.

Recording Secretary – Keith Mazanec

Keith stated that the final copy of the Sept. 20, 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:** Arnie motioned to approve the September 2022 meeting minutes; Joseph seconded the motion. All in attendance voted “Yes.” APPROVED.

Corresponding Secretary – Miriam Taub

Miriam reported two editions of the Potting Shed were sent out in October. Also, a sympathy card was sent to the family of John Grill.

Old Business:

Holiday Open House Budget

Melody introduced Maria Bushman and Susan Sheridan and turned the meeting over to them for their presentation. Maria stated that the Holiday Open House is the largest fundraiser for the NJ Botanical Garden. This year, there is a lack of volunteers and more work and expense is falling on those who are putting together the event. The theme of this year’s event is a Holly Jolly Holiday. Following was a discussion as to why MGs are being asked to pick up the additional expenses.

Holiday Open House Budget cont...

Susan stated that since she has been involved with the event, there has always been a partnership with the NJBG and the MG of BC. Arnie questioned why there is lack of volunteers this year. Maria responded that additional rooms were added for decorating, spreading out the volunteers and the resources they have, hence the need for additional funds over last year. Joseph offered that he believed the NJBG started this event some 30 years ago, and that he has worked on the event for the past 15 years. Originally, certain groups, i.e. various garden clubs, would donate decorations. One group would sponsor a silent auction, and others would donate decorations and help out in other ways. Later on, money was given to help subsidize the decorations. It was suggested that maybe the HOH look at going back to the original concept. Certain groups have dropped out of participating for several reasons; one being changes within the groups themselves. Susan also added that putting on this event takes a lot of time, hard work and financial contributions by the volunteers. We enjoy it as it is our way of giving back to the Botanical Garden. Joseph suggested that if there are needs for specific items, we could work on providing those things. After further discussion, Maria was asked how much is being requested and replied \$750.00.

Motion: Arnie motioned that \$550 be approved this year, and that the HOH committee approach the Board earlier next year with its budget request. Three members voted yes.

Motion: Suzanne made a counter motion that \$600.00 be approved for this year only, and that we would revisit it again next year. Miriam seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

4-H and MG of BC collaboration - update

As a follow-up to holding a meeting with participants from the RCE, MG of BC, 4-H, Green Thumb and Joel Flagler, Karen offered her and Joel's availability for this Friday, Oct. 29, at 2PM. There were no MGs available, so Karen will send out a list of potential dates for a future meeting.

Group Project-plant/seed swap update

Liz is dropping the project as there has been no interest shown from the membership.

Election slate to be presented for vote by the general membership

Tonight is the election of three officers by the general membership. Since this meeting is being held virtually, it was decided the voting tabulation would be conducted as it was in 2021, i.e., members would vote only if they abstained or were opposed to the names on the slate presented. When the slate is presented, it should be emphasized that only certified MGs should be casting votes.

Bylaws update proposal

Melody reviewed the changes she made to bylaw Article II, Executive Board, Section 3. There was discussion about making some of the verbiage more specific to avoid any confusion. Melody to re-word the section and will discuss further at the November meeting.

Meeting Venue

We will be going back to in-person meetings in Hackensack starting in January 2023. Donna mentioned that we may be moving to Building #2, and suggested that Miriam announce it in the Potting Shed once the venue has been firmed up.

Committee Reports

Community outreach liaison – Arnie Friedman

Arnie reported that a number of speakers have been signed up for the spring, and that he recently gave two talks

Hospitality – Martha Carlucci (absent)

No report given.

Membership – Theresa Schneider

To date we have 123 dues-paying members for calendar year 2022, and a total of 223 members on the master list of MG of BC. As a comparison, last year at this time we had 138 dues-paying members, and a total of 215 members on the master list of MG of BC. There are 7 paid renewals for 2023 to date.

Newsletter – Miriam Taub

Miriam reported that she has a lot of material for the November Potting Shed. She further asked that when she sends out requests for articles for future Potting Shed publications, that members please respond to her.

Garden Club liaison – Janet Schulz

Janet reported that the clubs are starting to hold in-person meetings again, and that she is speaking at the Westwood library this week.

Programs – Donna Faustini

Scheduled the meeting dates through May 2023. Tonight's speaker will be Fred Carl who will speak about dahlias. November's speaker will be Anne Meore who will discuss therapeutic gardens. The following are the meeting dates booked thus far for 2023:

1/17/23, 2/21/23, 3/21/23, 4/18/23 and 5/16/23.

Rutgers Cooperation Extension liaison – Karen Riede

RCE Report to MG Assoc. Board Mtg. 10/25/22

Joel Flagler

1. The Morris County Ornamental Hort. Agent position search has concluded, and a name has been submitted to the Executive Dean (Laura Lawson) for approval. Since it is a faculty and tenure-track position there are many layers of review that candidates must go through. With luck the new person will be on board in early 2023. That new person will work with Joel and Karen and Cecilia to deliver the North Jersey Ornamental Hort. conference (January each year). This is the oldest continually offered program in RCE, reaching hundreds of arborists, tree experts, landscape contractors and turf managers each year.
2. There is a new search being initiated for the Essex County Ag/Hort. Agent position. This position will have an urban ag focus with community engagement as a theme. Unlike previous staff positions (Jan Zientek), this will be a faculty tenure-track position. Hopefully this search committee will convene before this year ends.
3. The North Jersey Ornamental Hort. Conference is coming Jan. 10-12, 2023. MGs are encouraged to join us for Landscape Day on Jan.12. The time schedule is being worked out at this time, along with the details of the conference. Mark the calendar. It will certainly include a morning session and may (or may not) have a pm session.
4. I was invited to speak at a conference of NJ County Parks directors held on 10/14 at the brand new rowing center in Riverside CP in Lyndhurst. My topic was Spotted Lanternfly, and the attendees appreciated the Rutgers updates that I provided. I also distributed egg scrape cards in English and Spanish. The place is fantastic and all are urged to check it out. Parks Director Jim Koth appreciated the RCE participation and we are totally pleased with that. BTW: The only crop losses in 2022 due to SLF were on grapes and only minimal at that. So while they are found on over 70 plants the damage they do is minor. Further, native birds are feeding on them and that is great news for natural control.

RMGANJ report – Herb Arbeiter

There was no regular Thursday meeting of the board because of the Fall Conference on Saturday, Oct. 15.

There were approximately 70 in-person attendees and over 300 virtual attendees for this year's Fall Conference.

RMGANJ report cont...

Dr. Brian Schilling, Director of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension, was the keynote speaker. He praised the Master Gardeners for all the volunteer hours they have performed. The MG volunteer hours for 2022 are equivalent to a workforce of 45 people; this exceeds the entire Rutgers' staff for the Cooperative Extension. Dr. Schilling uses these statistics to get increased budgeting for the program. Dr. Schilling also stated that over 4 million volunteer hours have been logged since the inception of the Master Gardener program in New Jersey.

Dr. Mathew Elmore presented "Weeds of the Lawn."

Ms. Rebecca Magron presented "Master Gardener Diagnostics for Helpline."

The presentations by Dr. Elmore and Ms. Magron were taped for future viewing for anyone who registered for the meeting and was unable to attend.

Site coordinator liaison – Liz Gil

Liz reported that for some time we have been looking for a site coordinator for the Hackensack River Greenway Through Teaneck. She was happy to report that Harriet Steiner, Class of 2019, has stepped up and will take over as site coordinator. We are currently looking at Saturday, Nov. 12 as a date for a clean-up event at the Mary S. Topolsky Garden. (*Please note the actual date for the event is Saturday, Nov. 19.)

Volunteer Records – Suzanne Danzig

To date, 70 out of 124 active members (not including our pending interns, which are another 29) have recorded hours on Better Impact, an increase of 8 entries from last month and 2 more active members from last month. Our 70 volunteers have recorded 3,750 total hours up from 2,850 hours last month. Of those 3,750 hours, 544 are Administrative, 2,493 are Outreach sites, 189 are Special Projects, 60 Teaching and 464 are CE hours. Last year we had 59 volunteers recording 2,921 hours. To date this year we have 70 MGs recording a total of 3,750 hours. It would be great to pass 4,000 hours this year. Of the Outreach sites, Garretson Forge & Farm recorded 499 hours, The Hermitage 420 hours, Thielke Arboretum 382 hours and McFaul 256 hours.

Website – Joseph Cooper

Our domain name is up for renewal.

New Business

Herb brought up for discussion that he had been approached about adding Lorrimer Sanctuary in Franklin Lakes to the approved list of MG volunteer sites. Many of our sites are already in northern Bergen County. There was consensus that our volunteers are spread thin already and that we should not add a new site at this time. Janet saw this as an opportunity for MGs to get together as a group for a special project on a specific date. Liz reminded the group that she is planning that type of opportunity for a clean-up project on Saturday, Nov. 12 (note the actual date is Saturday, Nov. 19) at the Mary S. Topolsky Garden, part of the Hackensack River Greenway Through Teaneck.

T-shirts

Karen stated that if there is an interest in purchasing MG T-shirts, the minimum order is 12. Melody asked Karen to see if anyone is interested in purchasing a T-shirt during the January meeting.

Adjournment

Motion: A motion was made by Joseph to adjourn the meeting. Suzanne seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 PM.