

**Master Gardener Association of Bergen County
Board Meeting Minutes – February 21, 2023**

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

Absent: Pat Vellas, Martha Carlucci

The meeting was called to order by President Corcoran at 5:37 PM.

Officer Reports:

President – Melody Corcoran

Melody thanked the committee chairs who submitted their 2022 year-end report. If you haven't submitted your report yet, please send it to Keith and me.

We now have a publicity team, Maria Bushman and Lisa Yoler, both from the class of 2019.

They are in the process of setting up a new Facebook account and an Instagram account for MG of BC. Maria contacted Patrick Lull and he said that he would take down the Facebook page he set up, but it still appears to be there at this time. I don't know how important taking down this old page is. We also have another Facebook page setup by Pat Libutti and Denise George in 2017 that still appears to be there.

Maria and Lisa have been invited to tonight's meeting to discuss what they have done so far. They will also be asking us exactly what we want posted and how.

Donna Faustini, who has been Programs chair since 2015, will be stepping down from the position. She has agreed to stay on until a replacement has been found and trained. Thank you, Donna, for your years of finding and scheduling the speakers for our meetings.

Vice President – Elizabeth Gil

No report.

Treasurer – Pat Vellas (absent)

Melody read the Treasurer's Report in Pat's absence for the period ending Jan. 31, 2023.

Opening Balance as of: Dec. 31, 2022	\$ 15,285.50
Income:	
Membership fees	\$ 740.00
Member donation	\$ 150.00
Speaker donation	\$ 0.00

Total Income:	\$ 890.00
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Treasurer’s Report cont...

Expenses:	Miriam Taub-cards, paper, stamps	\$	(37.94)
	Jason Grabosky – Speaker’s Fee	\$	(150.00)

Total Expenses:		\$	(187.94)
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Closing Balance as of Jan. 31, 2023		\$	15,987.56
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Total Outstanding Checks: Miriam Taub-cards, paper, stamps			(37.94)
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Bank Statement Balance as of Jan. 31, 2023		\$	16,025.50
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Pat has filed the annual reports with the IRS and the State of NJ.

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

Recording Secretary – Keith Mazanec

Keith stated that the final copy of the Jan. 17, 2023 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 January 2023 meeting minutes; Herb 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 February. Also, a reminder of tonight’s meeting and dues reminder letters were sent out as well.

Old Business:

4-H and MG of BC collaboration - update

Karen reported that Abbie Kesely, Sr. Program Coordinator 4H Youth Development, is starting the registration process this week. Abbie will follow up with an email to those interested.

Summer Picnic – Van Saun Park

Pat Vellas has reached out to Adam Strobel from the Teaneck Creek Conservancy board, who had offered to assist us in getting a slot for our picnic at Van Saun Park. To date, she has not heard back from him.

***Motion:** Arnie motioned that we go ahead and pay the fee to secure the pavilion at Van Saun Park for the picnic. The date is Tuesday, June 13. Herb seconded the motion. - APPROVED.

Outreach Volunteer hours

Arnie to reach out to Joel regarding if Master Gardeners can schedule and designate as volunteer hours various single work events at non-MG volunteer sites.

Confirming removal of non-dues-paying MGs from the distribution list.

Miriam stated that as of now our practice has been to distribute the Potting Shed to dues-paying members only. After a discussion, it was decided that non-dues payers would also receive the Potting Shed; however, they would not have access to the member section of the website.

Committee Reports

Community outreach liaison – Arnie Friedman

Arnie reported that Wiebke Hinsch wants to be removed from the Speakers Bureau. Liz suggested Maggie Raywood as a potential speaker. Following was a discussion about upgrading our computer. It was agreed that we would hold off for now. The Party for the Planet event will be held on April 22 at the Bergen County Zoo in Van Saun Park. Would we be interested in doing a presentation at the event?

Hospitality – Martha Carlucci (absent)

Melody reported that Bernadette White has offered to assist Martha with the member picnic.

Membership – Theresa Schneider

To date we have 96 dues-paying members for calendar year 2023. Theresa presented a graph she developed (copy attached), depicting the membership of dues paying and non-dues paying members dating back to 2017. There was a discussion regarding changes and updates to the membership directory.

Newsletter – Miriam Taub

Miriam reported that she is working on the March edition of the newsletter that will include a profile of Lynne Proskow, who is one of the volunteers for the Speakers Bureau.

Garden Club liaison – Janet Schulz

No report. Janet mentioned that there is an upcoming late afternoon “tea” with several garden clubs to share speaker information. This event is also scheduled for June 13, the same day as our picnic.

Programs – Donna Faustini

Our speaker tonight is John Beirne from the Reeves-Reed Arboretum whose presentation is on flowering trees. For March, Kathy Sauerborn will be discussing gardening for hummingbirds. The April 18 meeting will be a joint session with Passaic County, and Mary Jasch will speak on private gardens. Michael Hagen from the NYBG will speak at our May 16 meeting, and his topic will be native plants for small spaces.

Trips and Tours – Janet Schulz

Janet reported that a questionnaire was published in the February Potting Shed to ascertain the level of interest in participating in trips and tours. There were 12 positive answers. Janet is looking into a variety of trips, and of those sites contacted thus far, the fee per docent ranges between \$50 - \$90, which would be split among the attendees.

Rutgers Cooperation Extension liaison – Karen Riede

RCE Report to the MG Assoc. Board Mtg. 2/21/23

Joel Flagler

5 Rutgers Searches are ON, to hire several key positions:

State Agent Fruit IPM

State Agent Consumer Hort. and Master Gardener Coordinator

Essex County Ag. Agent with urban agriculture and community development focus

Cumberland County Ag. Agent with commercial vegetable focus

Warren County Ag. Agent with livestock and agronomy focus

New Morris County Ag. Agent started 2-1-23, with ornamental hort. focus (Jean Epiphan)

New Somerset County Ag. Agent started 2-1-23 (Kara Ricciardi)

-The North Jersey Ornamental Horticulture Conference was a huge success—in its 62nd year. We trained over 400 arborists and tree experts, sports turf managers, landscape contractors and more. Evaluations indicate this is a very highly valued training program. Most attendees are from Bergen and Morris with some from Union, Essex and Passaic counties. The impact of this training is improved practices and more IPM on the part of the professionals. More soil testing and pest monitoring and use of biological tactics are a few of the outcomes. I secured major accreditation from the NJDEP --PP2 and category 3A earned 10 points on Landscape Day alone—which I chaired on Feb 3. Turf and Tree Day also had generous accreditation from the DEP and also ISA. I joined the team when this was still at the Robin Hood Inn in 1987.

-My newest class of Rutgers Master Gardeners has 40 interns. We train every Tuesday online. Each will volunteer a minimum of 60 hours of service to our programs and projects in Bergen County. We also accepted 4 from Hudson County as Rutgers wants to establish the MG program there as well.

RMGANJ report – Herb Arbeiter

No report – There weren't any RMGANJ meetings held in January or February.

An ad hoc committee including Melody, Karen, Suzanne and Miriam was established to address how we will handle, going forward those members who have not met their “hours” requirements for continued certification in 2022 and in previous years.

Site coordinator liaison – Liz Gil

Liz reported that the clean-up event at the Mary S. Topolsky Garden has been scheduled for Saturday, March 11 from 10AM – 2PM. Rain date is Sunday, March 12. Those interested in participating should contact Karen Riede to register.

Volunteer Records – Suzanne Danzig

Year to date totals of hours reported in Better Impact thus far: (41 MG's have recorded their hours)

Thielke:	94.0 hrs.
Teaneck Creek:	20.0 hrs.
Skylands HOH:	2.5 hrs.
NJBG:	11.0 hrs.
Garretson F & F:	28.0 hrs.
BNBMC:	20.0 hrs.
Teaching:	1.5 hrs.
Total:	177.0 hrs.
Administrative:	113.0 hrs.
Continuing Education:	99.0 hrs.
MG of BC Meetings:	25.0 hrs.

Suzanne noted that people are still having problems logging into Better Impact and entering their hours. There was a discussion on how to reach those who need assistance with recording their hours.

Website – Joseph Cooper

Paid the URL fee for the website.

New Business

Publicity: Melody introduced Maria Bushman and Lisa Yoler, who will be handling publicity for the MG of BC. Maria began her presentation by giving a brief history of our experience with Facebook. While an account was made several years ago, we have created new Facebook and Instagram accounts. Maria asked for ideas of what we want to post to these accounts and gave several examples including; reminders, outreach events, pictures, activities, things we've accomplished, announcements, etc... Any items for posting should be sent to Maria and/or Lisa.

New Business: Publicity cont...

Anyone with a Facebook / Instagram account who's logged in will be able to view our posts, and people are also able to make comments. Joseph mentioned about monitoring the sites should some of the comments made by the public are inappropriate. Karen suggested we check with other counties as to what works and what doesn't. Joseph also mentioned that we should check if we still have a YouTube account out there.

In-active MGs, ad hoc committee: see comment under RMGANJ section.

Goals for 2023: will discuss at March meeting.

Equipment maintenance, Zoom meetings: There was a discussion about live streaming monthly meetings via: Zoom for those who are unable to attend in-person. Melody will speak with Martha Carlucci to solicit her input on how this can be accomplished.

Rutgers stilt grass project: The last day to sign up is February 23.

T shirts, logo, vendors: to be discussed next month.

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.