

**Master Gardener Association of Bergen County
Board Meeting Minutes – September 19, 2023**

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

The meeting was called to order by President Corcoran at 5:40 pm.

Officer Reports:

President – Melody Corcoran

Pat Vellas has informed Melody that she will be resigning as treasurer.

Vice President – Elizabeth Gil

No report.

Treasurer – Pat Vellas (presented by Melody)

For month ending August 31, 2023:

Opening Balance as of April 30, 2023	\$16,032.76
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Income:

Membership fees	\$20.00
Member donation	\$10.00
Speaker donation	\$250.00

Total Income:	\$280.00
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Expenses:

John Beirne–Speaker’s Fee	\$(300.00)
Suzanne Danzig MG intern breakfast	\$(50.20)
Martha Carlucci-MG picnic	\$(314.15)
Janet Schulz-Reed-Reeves Arboretum	\$(15.00)

Total Expenses:	\$(684.35)
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Total Outstanding Checks: John Beirne-Speaker’s Fee \$(250.00)
(Donna tried contacting him with no response, added check back to account)

Closing Balance as of August 31, 2023	\$15,878.41
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Bank Statement Balance as of August 31, 2023	\$15,878.41
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***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 was not present, Suzanne Danzig stepped in to take minutes for tonight’s meeting.

***Motion:** Suzanne motioned to approve the May 2023 meeting minutes, Arnie seconded the motion. All in attendance voted “Yes.” APPROVED

Corresponding Secretary: Miriam Taub

Miriam reached out to those eligible for pins to see if they were coming to the meeting, most did not respond.

Old Business:

Nominating Committee:

Prospective Candidates and Notes

Elizabeth Gil (VP) Does not want to move up to president.

Herb Arbeiter (RMGANJ Delegate) Does not want to take on either position.

Keith Mazanec (Recording Secretary Class of 2019) He is happy in his current position. No interest in a new role.

Jeffrey Chan (Class of 2011) Caretaker for his wife and doesn’t have the time.

Maria Bushman (Co-Publicity Chair - Class of 2019)

Lisa Yoler (Co-Publicity Chair – Class of 2019)

Jessica Wang (Class of 2019) Left a message. 201-600-8495

Theresa offered to be interim president until she goes back to work which would only be a few months while we continue to seek out candidates.

Melody would consider staying on for perhaps a month or two but is taking on a new role at Garretson Forge & Farm.

Liz suggested Maggie Raywood but we have to confirm her certification and that she has met her requirements.

Membership Ad Hoc Committee:

We have notified members who need to update their hours; some have and some have not. Karen and Suzanne have updated Better Impact and some MG’s classification from active/accepted to archived.

Goals Ad Hoc Committee:

The committee sent out a very detailed outline of suggestions, too lengthy for minutes, to be discussed at next meeting.

MG Logo:

We need to vote on the new logo, putting it off due to some glitches with website format issues. The new masthead for the Potting Shed will be using the new logo and Gayle Clayton will be designing the masthead with an estimated fee of \$150. The \$150 will come from the website budget of \$800.

T Shirts:

Karen presented the new shirts with new logo in brown made of recycled material. We can reach out to Seana Kirk directly and pay with check or VENMO. You can choose a different color. Ranging from \$16,\$18,\$20 depending on men, women and v-neck.

The shirts will be advertised in the Potting Shed.

Committee Reports

Community outreach liaison – Arnie Friedman

Linda Flynn resigned from Speakers Bureau. Arnie will submit an article to recruit new speakers.

Hospitality –

Membership – Theresa Schneider

129 members and 124 dues paying members. Theresa and Suzanne will coordinate to crosscheck paying members and certified members. Membership form is on website, it can be filled out online but no way of paying online, still have to send a check.

We do have to change payment address and all that goes with it due to Pat stepping down as treasurer.

Newsletter – Miriam Taub

Programs – Donna Faustini

New dates for 2024; (in current location) Jan 23, Feb 20, March 19; (in learning center) April 16, May 21; dates not approved, Sept 17, Oct 15, Nov 19.

Tonight speaker; Eric Rohsler; October speaker Kathrine Schwarz, nutritionist, dietitian to discuss the federal “Farming” bill; November Steve Adams, “Edible Garden & Yard Weeds”

Trips and Tours – Janet Schulz

Rutgers Cooperation Extension liaison – Karen Riede

RCE Report to MG Association Board Mtg. 9/19/21

Joel Flagler

- Several candidates for the statewide position of Master Gardener Coordinator and Consumer Horticulture Coordinator were invited by Rutgers to give seminars for the ANR Dept. Last week and this week we got to 'meet' and listen to some very talented individual with a wide breadth of skills in horticulture and beyond. This is a faculty position so the person hired must earn tenure and promotion by their 6th year.
- Jean Epiphen is the recently hired Ornamental Horticulture Ag Agent for Rutgers Coop Ext. of Morris County. Jean will be our keynote speaker on Jan 11, 2024 when we bring the 63rd North Jersey Ornamental Horticulture Conference to the County College of Morris. I am Chair of that Landscape Day conference, which also features talks by Rich Buckley from the Rutgers Plant Pest Diagnostic Lab; Steve Rettke of the Rutgers IPM program; Bill Erickson—the Rutgers Ag Agent from Monmouth County—who has some original research on native plants to share; and Steve Bross of NJDEP Pesticide Control Program. Plan to join us; it includes a nice hot lunch and morning coffee too. Watch for our big mailing in late October. All MG's are most welcome. Jan 9 is Turf Day with speakers on sport turf, lawn research and more. Jan 10 is Tree Day with a full day of speakers on Tree-related topics.
- The Fall Harvest Festival is coming up next weekend. The MG will have their tent filled with educational displays and activities for the kids. 4-H will have small live animals and club displays. There will be a full midway carnival and 14 food vendors. Music at 2 pm on both days will be live and really good. The dedication is at noon on Saturday Sept 23 and we would love to have a strong MG presence there to cheer us on. Thank you to the whole MG family for all the efforts put into the event and special thanks to Karen Riede for encouraging everyone and coordinating the many details. Hope to see you there.
- We welcome new staff member Alyssa Glynn, Senior Program Coordinator 4H Youth Development to the RCE office. We look forward to working on future projects with her.

RMGANJ report – Herb Arbeiter

Fall conference Oct 21st, registration has begun. It will be offered in person and virtual. Miriam has posted info in Potting Shed. There will be 3 speakers, Karl Gercons, Randi Eckle and Christopher Obropta. MGs will earn 3.5 CE hours and .5 if they go on garden tour.

Site coordinator liaison – Liz Gil

Reached out regarding blasts and response was very favorable.

Volunteer Records – Suzanne Danzig (absent)

Newly certified MGs Janet Stofkoper '23, Linda Bourke '23, Kim Correro '23, Peter Cammarano '23, Sharon LaMonica '22.

YTD we have recorded 3541 outreach hours compared to 3580 this time last year. Appears the blasts for Garretson and the Bergen County Zoo resulted in posted higher volunteer hours those dates. 47 teaching hours; total CE hours 523.

We have 4 outstanding MG who have recorded over 200 outreach hours so far this year; Noel Schulz with 395, Janet Stofkoper with 285, and Melody Corcoran with 275 and Laura DeFlora with 226.

Website – Joseph Cooper

Joseph not in attendance.

***Motion:** Arnie motioned to adjourn, Suzanne seconded, all in attendance voted yes.
Meeting adjourned 6:58 pm.