

**Master Gardener Association of Bergen County  
Board Meeting Minutes – October 17, 2023**

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

**Absent:** Elizabeth Gil, Donna Faustini

The meeting was called to order by President Corcoran at 5:35 pm.

**Officer Reports:**

**President – Melody Corcoran**

Everyone should have seen our new logo on our website header and the Potting Shed masthead. Gayle Clayton and Liz Gil worked on adapting the original design to work in both locations. The original design with “Master Gardeners” wrapped around the circle works on T-shirts but did not work for the website and masthead.

I need someone to store hospitality supplies until we have a new hospitality chair. There is no room in the RCE office for the supplies. I will keep all the treasurer’s records until we have a new treasurer.

I want to thank the goals ad hoc committee for the work that they did in coming up with goals for the MG of BC to consider in moving our organization forward and keeping our membership active.

**Vice President – Elizabeth Gil (absent)**

No report.

**Treasurer**

The Treasurer’s Report was presented by Melody.

For month ending Sept. 30, 2023:

Melody reported that she issued one check payable to Gayle Clayton in the amount of \$125.00.

The checkbook balance as of Sept. 30 is \$15,553.41.

Melody stated that we are in need of a new Treasurer immediately. Maria Bushman had expressed an interest, however she is unable to attend monthly meetings. Jean Friedman would be another candidate. If she is amenable, Melody proposed that she become our new Treasurer. There was a discussion about the fact that Jean isn’t certified and what she’d have to do to become certified.

**Recording Secretary – Keith Mazanec**

Keith stated that Suzanne had sent out the final copy of the Sept. 19, 2023 Board Meeting minutes to all Board Members for review, and that if there were no changes or questions, proposed that a motion be made to approve them. Miriam stated that she would abstain from approving the minutes as presented, due to inconsistencies in the formatting.

**\*Motion:** Herb motioned to approve the September, 2023 meeting minutes; Arnie seconded the motion. All in attendance voted “Yes” with one abstention. APPROVED.

**Corresponding Secretary – Miriam Taub**

Miriam reported that she had sent a sympathy card to Pat Vellas’ husband. In addition, Miriam distributed the October Potting Shed and mid-month edition of the October Potting Shed.

**Old Business:**

Following the Officer’s reports, the Board addressed a new business item, specifically the Holiday Open House budget. Present from the decorating committee were Sue Sheridan and Laura DeFlora. Sue distributed copies of the budget request and went through the breakdown for the Board. The overall funding request from the MG of BC was for \$610.00.

**Motion:** Following a discussion of the budget request, Suzanne motioned to increase the budget from \$250.00 to \$500.00 and cap it at \$500.00.

**Motion:** Joseph motioned that we consider granting the budget request as is to cover this year’s expenses and place a cap of \$500.00 going forward. It was agreed that the subject would be up for further discussion in January when the overall 2024 budget is being prepared. Arnie seconded the motion. APPROVED.

**Nominating Committee**

Joseph reported that the Nominating Committee is still at work looking for candidates to fill the open committee and officer positions. Theresa Schneider said she would help as VP for next year as her schedule permits. Maggie Raywood (teacher at NYU) said she would be willing to take on “a” role. She indicated that she would help out temporarily in hospitality.

Chris Kozar also has expressed interest. Following was a discussion of volunteer hours requirements to be considered for either an officer or committee chair position (25 volunteer site; 10 educational).

**New computer, equipment manager**

TBD at next meeting

### **Goals ad hoc committee**

There was a discussion about the possibility of holding meetings at different locations or perhaps an occasional day time meeting to reach out to members who are unable to attend evening meetings in Hackensack.

Melody urged the board to review the goals and be prepared to discuss them in further detail at next month's board meeting.

### **MG logo-finalize with in-person vote, online voting policy**

**Motion:** Arnie motioned to approve the two versions of the new MG of BC logo. Miriam seconded the motion. Janet suggested that we should only have one logo. Arnie amended his motion that we use the round logo for smaller items and the large logo for mastheads. It was so amended that there could be wording changes where appropriate. Suzanne seconded the amended motion. APPROVED.

The discussion concerning an on-line voting policy would be taken up at a later date.

### **Website updates, new Potting Shed masthead**

Previously discussed

### **T-shirts**

Karen showed an example of the T-shirts (heather) with the new logo on them. Seana Kirk will post the t-shirt information and Karen will assist in coordinating payments. Payments can be made by check or through Venmo to Seana.

### **MG holiday party**

The holiday party has been scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023 from noon to 2 pm at Van Saun County Park in the Zoo Educational Building. The park will keep the gift shop open during our event. We will have use of the building from 11 am until 2:30 pm for setup and clean up.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Community outreach liaison – Arnie Friedman**

Arnie put an article in the Potting Shed requesting volunteers for the Speaker's Bureau. To date there have been no responses.

#### **Hospitality –**

Position vacant – no report given

#### **Membership – Theresa Schneider**

To date we have 128 dues-paying members for calendar year 2023.

**Newsletter – Miriam Taub**

Miriam reported that there has been no response from anyone interested in the open committee positions posted in the newsletter.

**Janet Schulz** – Nothing to report this month

**Programs – Donna Faustini**

Absent – No report given

**Rutgers Cooperative Extension liaison – Karen Riede**

Karen presented Joel's report:

RCE Report to the MG Association Board Mtg. 10/17/23

Joel Flagler

- Save the date of January 11 for the North Jersey Ornamental Horticulture Conference at County College of Morris in Randolph.

The theme is Landscape Day and Joel is Chair. He has served on the conference team since 1987 and it is still one of the best programs in all of Rutgers Cooperative Extension. Speakers include Rich Buckley of the Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Lab, Bill Erickson (Monmouth County Agent, "Native Plants"), Steve Rettke (Insect pest IPM), Jean Epiphan (new Morris County Ag Agent). You will learn, and be entertained at once; plus a nice hot lunch. Hope to see you there!

- The County Parks Dept. will welcome the MGs for their winter luncheon at 11 am -2:30 pm on Dec 12. The location is the Bergen County Zoo Educational Building. The Parks Dept. and the Zoo, in particular, have been vocal in expressing their appreciation for the work the MGs do year-round in so many important county locations. We have had a team or two at the Zoo for many decades. Thank you to all who give freely of their time toward building bonds with the County. That is how our funding is sustained and how we market RCE Bergen.
- The James Rose house in Ridgewood will welcome MGs to participate in their plantings and garden maintenance. That house, designed and built by famed architect James Rose, has been managed by Rutgers since its foundation was started 30+ years ago. Professor Emeritus Dr. Dean Cardasis has been the foundation director since its inception. Joel agreed to provide some lectures there as part of their educational programming (e.g., Oct. 14); as well as to plant native rhododendrons, with some MG help, in 2024. This place is fantastic and most unique. It is on Ridgewood Ave across from the high school.

**RMGANJ report – Herb Arbeiter**

Herb reported that he was not in attendance at the October meeting. The fall conference is being held this Saturday, Oct. 21. Today is the last day for registration. The conference will be taped so it can be viewed at a later date. Participants will receive four hours of education credit

**Site coordinator liaison – Liz Gil**

Absent - no report given

**Volunteer Records – Suzanne Danzig**

We can welcome five newly certified MGs this month: Hugo Steiner, Maureen Caban, Karen Clemments, Jeanne Etter, and Seana Kirk.

An additional 529 outreach hours, 34 administrative hours, and four teaching hours as well as 54 CE hours have been recorded since last month. This brings the total YTD to 4,166 outreach, 597 administrative, 51 teaching, 135 special projects, and 612 CE hours.

I was wondering if we should recognize some of our high achievers either at our meeting or in the Potting Shed. We have one MG who has logged over 400 hours so far this year, and two who have logged over 300 hours, pretty incredible.

**Website – Joseph Cooper**

There is nothing new to report this month

**New Business:**

**Holiday Open House budget**

(See first item under Old Business)

**MG class liaison**

To be discussed

**Hybrid meetings**

There was a discussion about the use of multiple options to live stream meetings (cell phone, lap top or iPad and utilize Zoom to stream). Arnie will look into this further

**Mentoring**

To be discussed

**Adjournment**

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.