

Bergen County Master Gardeners  
Board Meeting – January 25, 2011

The meeting was opened at 5:30 pm.

Present: Barb Johansson, Karen Pennell, Sissel Castelli, Janet Jaarsma, Leslie Maltz, Tracey Fraser, Pat Knight, Joe Cooper, Lucy Malka, Hank Annunziata, Ellen Petrocelli (Skylands Chair), and Laura De Flora (2011 Class Liaison).

Absent: Vivian De Marco, Walter Traubel, Cliff Gerenz, Sally Ditton, Janet Austin, Carol Tutundgy, and Lois Lynch.

**The President presented the following items for discussion and action:**

**Jane** has suggested to Joel that a succession of students from the current MG class attend the State meeting with our current reps: Walter, Jane, and Karen.

Barb passed on a **request on behalf of some of our members that we reconsider the advisability of our current meeting place.** Various members cited the advantages of availability, space, parking, and cleanliness as the board determined to stay at the Hackensack site and determined also to continue the years old tradition of meeting on a Tuesday evening.

A motion was made to accept the **new board members:** Sissel Castelli, Treasurer; Pat Knight, Outreach Co-Chair, and Hank Annunziata, Hospitality Chair.

A first time **Seminar on Community Gardens** is to be held at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Morristown on March 3. The board voted to send two members to the seminar to represent us and to gain information on this growing area of garden endeavor. The cost will be \$45.00 per and our delegates are Lucy Malka and Pat Knight with Sissel Castelli and Karen Pennell as alternates.

The **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society expressed** an interest in forming a liaison of sorts with us re presentations and speakers. Tracey will follow up on this, seeking greater information and clarification. (It was also briefly noted that a previous request to combine with Passaic County where a fee was to be charged for presentations was voted down last year.)

**The chairs of the various committees were then polled for their concerns which were as follows:**

There is a **need for a new fund raising chair.** Leslie will send on to Barb the names of those who indicated an interest in this as taken from the membership questionnaire.

Barb, on behalf of Cliff, **Membership**, related that 75 people have not paid their dues for the current year. Joe, **Volunteer Records**, related that many more members did not report their volunteer and education hours. The two lists were correlated and Janet, Ellen, Karen, Sissel, and Barb will call the listed individuals. Dues checks are to be sent snail to Leslie, who is standing in for the vacationing Cliff, and hours sent email to Joe.

Joe related that our MG Gardeners have put in over 5,000 2010 volunteer hours with 40% reporting.

Tracey, **Programs**, reported on the anticipated increased costs associated with securing speakers. Recent costs have ranged from \$800.00 to \$1000.00 per annum. The following speakers and topics were announced: February – Wanda Knapik on “Organic Vegetable Gardening”, March - Ira Grasgreen on “Annuals For Flowers and Foilage”, and April – R. Buckley on “Turf Grass”. Anticipated topics include hellebores, spring bulbs, and tree pruning. Kolvak’s plant sale was referenced and the board expressed its wish to continue with this fundraising event. Tracey also announced the Holiday Party as set for Tuesday, December 13 at the Discovery Center at Van Saun Park. The Food Pantry expressed its gratitude for the several bags of groceries collected at the 2010 holiday luncheon and presented to them.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Janet Jaarsma, Recording Secretary