

Bergen County Master Gardeners
Board Meeting – March 22, 2011

The meeting was opened at 5:40 pm.

Present: Barb Johansson, Karen Pennell, Janet Jaarsma, Leslie Maltz, Tracey Fraser, Pat Knight, Joseph Cooper, Jane Furman, Lucy Malka, Sally Ditton, Cliff Gerenz, Janet Austin, Hank Annunziata, and Laura De Flora.

Absent: Sissel Castelli, Walter Traubel, Lois Lynch, and Vivian De Marco.

The minutes of the Board Meeting on February 22, 2011 were approved.

The President presented the following items for discussion and action:

Walter Traubel has ordered the Master Gardener badges.

Vivian De Marco proffered her resignation as Corresponding Secretary. A brief discussion ensued and at its conclusion various names were put forward as possible candidates. The position was generally described as follows: the corresponding secretary serves at the behest of the board, and her/his correspondence appears above the president's signature. Our various working committees, on the other hand, are asked to conduct their own correspondence.

Barb announced that our comprised (officers and committee chairs) voting board membership numbers 17. Also, Barb is permitted to attend the meetings of any standing or ad hoc committee in her capacity as President of the organization.

The following board members were polled for their concerns and reports as follows:

Jane Furman, one of our **State Representatives**, reported that the State Report is not yet complete, that the state budget reductions are an ongoing concern, that speakers for the fall conference have not yet been determined, and that we will provide the facility for the fall conference. Jane collected a number of red and green information cards that she passed on to Karen for Outreach Committee use. MG of BC received a hearty round of applause for the refreshments.

Karen Pennell, **Outreach**, directed that all one day events had to go through Dail in the county office, and Karen. Upcoming events include Party for the Planet and Ridgewood's Earth Day. Sign up volunteer sheets are being distributed this evening. The use of the Rutgers' logo can only be gotten through Joel's office.

Our membership, current mg class, and area garden clubs, are invited to visit Kolvak's Nursery. The Board voted to donate \$100.00 for refreshments provided that mgofbc receive ten percent of the monies spent by both master gardeners and our guests, as named.

Sally Ditton, **Publicity**, had been charged with determining the suitability of a plant sale sponsored by our organization. Her recommendation was that we do not do so prior to Fall. The matter was tabled. Re publicity: Sally was recently contacted by the Record for special listing.

Lucy Malka, **Club Liaison**, reported that Laurelwood Gardens in Wayne would like to join the list of Bergen County Garden Clubs. Lois Lynch, **Trips and Tours**, has arranged a trip on April 27 to Laurelwood Gardens.

Hank Annunziata, **Hospitality**, reports that all is going well.

Leslie Maltz, for Cliff Gerenz, **Membership**, reports that we have 193 paid members plus 29 from the current class. The Directory will go to press at the end of this week.

Tracey Fraser, **Program**, announced tonight's program: Ira Grasgreen on "Annuals for Flowers and Foliage". She also related the history of our food drive and informed, too, that the various food pantries will accept fresh garden produce.

Lucy Malka, **Special Committee on Determining Criteria for MG of BC Education Hours**, stated that the committee is not ready to report back to the Board at this time and recommended that the status quo be maintained until the committee is able to issue a full report.

Sunshine. Jane Furman submitted a job description for the position of Sunshine Chairman. Discussion followed which culminated in a motion made and seconded that Jane become the Sunshine Chair. All were in favor.

Janet Austin, **Speakers Bureau**, reported an opportunity for a speaker to address an outdoor classroom in Rutherford on a series of Saturday morning's beginning at 11am.

Pat Knight and Lucy Malka reported on the first time Seminar on Community Gardens held on March 3, 2011. Included in their report: Rutgers has just one fact sheet on this topic, Sustaining interest on the community garden is an ongoing concern, and the Problem of the extent of MG involvement will be dealt with at the State level (any comments on this can be directed to Jan Zientek, Rutgers Urban Gardening, at zientek@njaes.rutgers.ed). Pat and Lucy promised that a full set of materials would be distributed to the membership via email and addressed at our next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55.

Janet Jaarsma, Recording Secretary

