

Bergen County Master Gardeners Board Meeting
Planning Meeting
December 7, 2012

Present: Karen, Joseph, Sissel, Janet J. Charles, Tracey, Laura, Barb, Jane, Hank, Amy Chang.

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 PM.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as corrected.

Karen thanked Janet Jaarsma, Recording Secretary, and Charles Maietta, Corresponding Secretary, for the service they have rendered the Board.

Our treasury showed an end of October balance of \$12,394.02 and an end of November balance of \$12,810.50.

A discussion was had on the proper use of the contact information provided in our Master Gardeners of Bergen County Membership Directory and Handbook. At its conclusion, the following judgment was made: The title of Master Gardener of Bergen County cannot be used in a for profit context; Moreover, said title can be used in a not for profit context only by those individuals who have earned certification and continue to satisfy the requirements to maintain same. This clarification will be published in our Handbook, Website, and *The Potting Shed*.

501c3 Status is being secured.

A complete computer set-up purchase will be made in April at the point when it is needed.

Volunteer Pins will be purchased to recognize the achievement of current Master Gardener members and will be awarded at five year intervals. The first group of MGBC will be those individuals who have served 20 years, and then we will proceed downward in the ensuing months. Janet Schulz, MGBC for over 20 years, will be the first recognized.

We then proceeded to officer and committee status reports of those members in attendance.

Committee Reports:

Tracey Fraser, Program Committee Chair described her position as securing speakers for January through May, and then September through November who will help meet the 20 hour education requirement with an eye to meeting the diverse needs and interests of our membership. Additionally, she secures the facilities and the necessary amenities for our various programs. Tracey further indicated an interest in securing someone who would attend to the 'janitorial' work as well as serve in her absence. A recommendation was made.

Our Treasurer, Sissel Castelli, stated that the MGBC signature card had to be signed at the bank so that the President would have the authorization to write checks in the Treasurer's absence. At Tracey's suggestion and with the Board's full approval, Sissel will instruct the bank to issue new checks that do not contain an address on the face of the check.

Janet Jaarsma, Recording Secretary, described her position as writing the minutes of the Board Meeting and preparing them for publication to the entire Board, and then, after review, the subsequent inclusion of same on our website.

Our Corresponding Secretary, Charles Maietta, listed his duties as keeping an up-to-date email list of the membership, doing this in conjunction with the membership chair so that the list is current. He writes all correspondence as directed by the Board and writes thank you notes to our various speakers forwarding copies of same to Tracey. He receives incoming correspondence and keeps a record of all correspondence.

Jane Furman and Joseph Cooper, State Representatives, intend to bring along with them to the State meetings a current student or member each month. They will also disseminate information to the membership at our monthly meetings. We were reminded that it is the State Representatives of the various counties that present the Fall Conference.

Jane Furman, Sunshine Committee, intends to gather more information from members on the 'happy news' front so that the communication from the Sunshine Committee is not perceived to be restricted to 'bad news'. She will also involve more of those members who can no longer meet the heavier physical demands of gardening in sunshine committee clerical work that will benefit the organization.

Laura De Flora, Outreach Chairman, has fashioned a number of subcommittees all of which are finding their way through new ventures that continue to extend the mission and reputation of MGBC. Laura specifically mentioned several groups and individuals:

Jeffrey Chang for his work chairing the Master Gardeners Table at the Harvest Fair and our many other one day events; Lucy Malka and Pat Knight, recently joined by Robyn Lowenthal, for their involvement in Community Gardens. Carol and Dennis Gretchen will take on the 4-H/ Master Gardeners' Fair next year. A point of clarification: In our work with community gardens and school gardens, it is our mission to consult and mentor only: Master Gardeners of Bergen County do not do the physical work involved in these endeavors.

(Joseph Cooper related that the McFaul Center in Wyckoff has an unused building that could possibly be used for educational outreach to children. He will pursue this.)

Barbara Johansson, Archives Chairman, sought the advice of the Board in determining which of the many items collected over the years should indeed be archived. Consideration was given to the possible duplication of items stored on our Website and in *The Potting Shed* and then, to the specific kinds of items to be 'scrap booked' in the Archives. The items to be archived will be scanned onto a computer disc for safekeeping using a yearbook type format.

Hank Annunziata, Hospitality Chairman, arranges for refreshments for our monthly meetings in addition to chairing the Graduation Luncheon, the Board/New Class Breakfast, and the Holiday Party.

This Planning Meeting will be continued in January when we will admit the comments of absent chairpersons.

Meeting concluded at 7:40 PM.

Janet Jaarsma, Recording Secretary