

**Master Gardeners of Bergen County  
Board of Directors Minutes for  
January 26, 2016**

Meeting was called to order by President Cooper at 5:35

**Present at the meeting:** Joseph Cooper, Suzanne Danzig, Fran Langendoen, Donna Karpel, Hank Annunziata, Pat Libutti, Donna Faustini, Janet Schulz, Lucy Malka, Pat Fromm, Noel Schulz, Serpil Leveen, John Walters, Bruce Walenczyk, Joe Papa, Melody Corcoran

**Presidents Report:**

Syllabus sent out for winter classes if anyone would like to view.  
Rutgers Home Gardening School is March 19, sign up, excellent means of acquiring education hours. This is the season for Flower Shows, these are also opportunities for education hours. *Spring Fest* is March 17-20, always a favorite among gardeners.  
Parking continues to be an issue, especially for board members as we arrive early and are told to park in new parking garage which is quite remote to walk to after the meeting and there are safety concerns. If anyone knows someone in Bergen County Special Services, please pass on their names so we can address this issue directly.

**Recording Secretary:**

**Motion:** Joseph Cooper made a motion to approve the minutes as they are written, Donna Karpel seconded, minutes from November meeting were unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Please note that the balance reported in November 17 minutes should have read \$11,369.63 not \$10,983.45.

Balance as of November 17, 2015.....	\$11,369.63
Income.....	\$755.00
Expenses.....	\$1029.36
Balance as of January 26, 2016.....	\$11,095.27

Bruce Walenczyk will be taking over as new Treasurer. Bruce and Fran will meet at bank to turn over authorization of account to Bruce.

**Corresponding Secretary:**

Serpil, confirmed that we have a PO Box and our official address is :  
*Master Gardeners of Bergen County  
PO Box 542  
Glen Rock, NJ 07452*

All financial documents should go to PO Box but membership dues and forms should go directly to the Membership Chair.

**Outreach Events and Volunteers:**

Denise Monesteri, leader of the Garfield 4-H Club along with Garfield Library, requested help from MGofBC, to start a community '*seed share library*' in Garfield. Pat will attend a meeting Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> to better understand their plan and how MGofBC might help. Pat suggests we evaluate their plan and determine if we can share with other libraries in Bergen Cnty as an outreach project. Joe Papa has expressed an interest in getting involved but waiting to see what is required of him before to

committing. Another member, Sal Lagattuta, lives in Garfield and hope to bring him onboard to participate. If approved, Pat will report back to the committee about the possibility of expanding this program or at least making it available to other Bergen County Libraries.

To follow up on November meeting, Pat has spoken to Arthur Allogiamento about becoming the Outreach Chair, but he kindly declined due to his spending much of his time in FL. Finding it difficult to quit but must step down and will assist whomever will replace her. Pat has enjoyed working with all of the members of the board and will remain an active Master Gardener.

**Garden Club Liaison:**

Lucy reported that she and Susan Gurak are planning the Garden Club Tea. 12-14 usually attend and the objective is to share information on speakers. Asked if "Societies" are included, Lucy indicated that she would like for them to be but there is not much contact with them.

Joseph is hoping to get another Garden Club to take on a room at the Skylands Holiday Event at NJBG.

**Class Liaison:**

Nothing to report as the class has been on break.

**Archivist:**

Continue to seek replacement for this position.

**Publicity:**

Pat Labutti has not found a replacement for her position just yet, search continues.

Pat sent a link to Facebook to the board members last month, here it is once again

<http://www.facebook.com/mgbcevents/>. In addition for those who do not have a Facebook please use this link... <http://mgbcevents.blogspot.com/>

Pat will continue to explore these resources.

Joseph Cooper expressed some concerns about using social media as a means of getting our mission out to the public, recognizes that is should be implemented but cautiously.

**Hospitality:**

Hank reported that the holiday party was a huge success about 70 members attended. Hank has used approximately \$500 for the picnic and the holiday party. The question of the amount of food was brought up and perhaps the purchased food can be cut back due to the generous contributions from members.

**Membership:**

To date 121 members have paid compared to 154 last year. 47 members have not paid, we may need to make phone calls.

5 year pins are owed to classes of '08,'09,'10.

There are 7 requests for hardcopies of directories, Joseph will take of those requests. John has several leftover badges from original order trying to distribute.

**Newsletter:**

Janet is looking always looking for suggestion to improve the newsletter.

**RMGANJ:**

Karen not in attendance, nothing to report at this time.

**Site Coordinator Liaison:**

**Tours and Trips:**

Josie was not in attendance but Josie and Bruce will look into any issues with insurance and a date will be determined for home tours.

**Programs:**

Donna Faustini has speaker scheduled for all dates with the exception of May, keep that date open for now in the event we have to reschedule a speaker due to snow. Donna has a speaker who specializes in mushrooms and would be willing to do a 'walk and talk' lecture. Might be a nice alternative to an evening meeting. We have a joint meeting scheduled for March with Passaic County. The speaker has a book, questioned whether we wanted to offer it for sale.

**Volunteers Records:**

Donna Karpel reported that 102 members submitted their hours but an additional 20-15 who have paid dues have not recorded their hours. To date 7,265 volunteer hours are recorded and that is without Carol Thielke's hours.

Expressed concerns about over recording of volunteer hours. Suggested that site coordinators have a sign-in sheet for volunteers to sign-in and out to in order to monitor hours of volunteers. Karen will implement this with site coordinators.

**Speakers Bureau:**

Arnie Friedman has agreed to be the new Chair and very excited about taking on this position.

**New Business:**

Joseph brought up "Director's Insurance" should be look into it?

**Old Business:**

Joseph is having a difficult time finding a projector to purchase, will continue. All equipment will cost no more than \$2500.

Bruce is trying to reinstate our 501 3-C status, will need financial statements to complete this process.

Attached to these minutes please find a recommendation for MGofBC membership designations as discussed at the meeting. This will be discussed further.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10