

**Master Gardeners of Bergen County
Board of Directors Minutes for
November 15, 2016**

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

Present at the meeting: Joseph Cooper, Suzanne Danzig, Hank Annunziata, Donna Faustini, Serpil Leveen, Lucy Malka, Karen Pennell, Joe Papa, Josie Ko, Janet Schulz, Donna Karpel, Denise George, Catherine Wedgbury, Dail Reid, Teresa Pegg, John Walters, Patrick P. Lull

Presidents Report:

Introduction of 2017 Class Liaisons, Patrick Lull and Catherine Wedgbury. Introduction of Terry Pegg who will be working with John Walters on membership. Introduction of all board members to new members .

The Student Breakfast went very well.

Vice President:

Lucy requested the syllabus for this year's program and Joe provided this at the meeting.

Recording Secretary:

September minutes were redistributed to all board members for review.

***Motion:** Joseph motioned to approve September minutes, seconded by Donna F.

October minutes were not approved as we need to clarify the Treasurers' report with Bruce who was not in attendance.

Treasurer's Report:

Opening Balance as of September 30, 2016.....	\$10821.21
Income:	\$40.00
Expenses:	\$607.77
Balance as of October 31, 2016.....	\$10,253.44

Bruce will go over the Treasurer's report at the next meeting at which time we can approve his report.

New Business:

Karen Pennell and the nominating committee discussed extending Joseph Cooper's term which is outlined in detail under **Nominating Committee** section.

***Motion:** Karen Pennell made a motion to extend Joseph Cooper's term as President for an additional 1 year term as a suitable candidate had not been found and to allow the incoming Vice President to prepare for the role a President. Janet Schulz seconded and approved with 2 abstentions.

Corresponding Secretary:

Community Outreach Events and Volunteers:

Dail has received two outreach requests; Wendy Gradstein from Teaneck Schools asking for help with school courtyard garden. Laura wrote an excellent letter to Wendy explaining the ability of the MGofBC to 'advise, guide and support' but not physically get involved. The second inquiry was from Maura Fox Collier from Ft Lee School #4 asking for design and plant assistance. This e-mail was forwarded to Arnie.

Garden Club Liaison:

Nothing to report.

Class Liaison:

Introduction of new class liaisons, Patrick Lull and Catherine Wedgbury.

Publicity:

Denise reported Facebook is set up but there is no activity. Denise will provide Janet with a report to be put in the newsletter.

Hospitality:

Class breakfast went well. Graduation will take place Saturday at McFaul from 12-2. Albina will assist with decorating and will provide centerpieces for the holiday party. The holiday party will take place December 6 at Van Saun from 12-2.

Membership:

John reports that dues are coming in slowly as application had errors and was distributed slowly. Janet will attach it in the next newsletter.

Newsletter:

Nothing to report.

RMGANJ:

Continued discussion about MG Conference.

November 1, 2016 RMGANJ Report

Expenses/ form the Conference continue through a transfer from OCPE for Conference registrants. Not all of the accounting is present since the system conversion has not been completed --still some outstanding reimbursements

RCE Update: Nick Polanin reported that there was a department meeting of Oct 4, 2016. The Department has 14 or 15 working groups currently devising mission statements.

There have been several retirement announcements throughout the department; Ocean, Cumberland and Warren, Hunterdon, Monmouth County Agent positions are open. Extension positions at the county level have to be supported at least 50% with local money in order to fill the positions.

At the Oct 12, 2016 MG Coordinator's meeting, Youth Protection Program, the annual report form and Cornerstone Finance Management system conversion issues were discussed. Please see details in full RMGANJ report online--regarding Youth Protection for more information on background checks, photos with children, etc

Nick extended his congratulations on the Conference results. It was a very good event and the Coordinators really enjoyed it.

Old and New Business: New pin order forms/pricing and checks made out to Rutgers for now. 2016 Conference Survey discussed.

Nominating Committee put together. Slate to be presented at the December meeting

2017 Conference date, facilities and speakers discussed.

Sunshine:

Joseph spoke to Jane Ferman, she is doing well. Joseph may have a candidate for this position.

Site Coordinator Liaison:

Upcoming events:

Garretson Farm Deck the halls: Dec. 1, Join us as we decorate the Garretson Forge & Farm homestead, or two Dutch Christmas: Saturday, Dec. 3, Come see the house in all its splendor. A holiday sale will include craft vendors along with Garretson goods, gift shop goodies, our wonderful handcrafted wreaths, bake sale, and Sinter Klass holding court by the fireplace.

NJBG Skylands Manor Holiday Open House "A Gardener's Holiday," this year's theme. Takes place Dec 1-4. Volunteers are needed to be docents. Volunteers are also needed to break down the display on Monday, Dec. 5

Hermitage: It's black walnut harvesting time at The Hermitage, Please drop by Tuesday mornings if you can help.

Overpeck, had a large grass planting.

Theilke Arboretum is still open and operating during the winter months.

Tours and Trips:

Josie working on spring tours.

Programs:

Bruce Crawford is presenting tonight. Continue to look into combined meeting with Passaic MG in April.

Volunteers Records:

I encouraged the graduating class to wait to send in their reports until they were done volunteering as some thought they had to send them in before graduation. I'd be putting in a mid-month update (Dec.) asking everyone to start sending in reports now (not Jan.) unless still volunteering.

Website:

Volunteer reports will be available on the website.

Nominating Committee:

The Nominating Committee thanked the members of the board for their submission of possible candidates as requested at the last meeting.

Due to various reasons, the nominating committee was not able to find a qualified candidate among the list given. Either they had previously been contacted or otherwise eliminated. A motion was proposed to extend Joseph Cooper to one more year as President. This would better prepare the next Vice President for their role as President.

The slate for 2017 officers would read:

President	Joseph Cooper
Vice President	Carolyn Gretchen
Recording Secretary	Suzanne Danzig
Corresponding Secretary	Serpil Leveen
Treasurer	Bruce Walenczyk

A motion was proposed for the bylaw amendment regarding the term length of elected officers. In order to keep in line with the State bylaws, where officers hold term for 2 years and alternate years so that all officers are not being replaced each year.

***Motion:** Joseph Cooper made a motion to change the MGofBC bylaws section 3; a&b to read as follows with Josie Ko seconding and all were in favor:

Bylaw Amendment Proposal:

-Article II Executive Board

Section 3 a. The President and the Vice President shall be elected for a term of two years. All officers shall be elected at the November general meeting and will take office after installation at the regularly scheduled January meeting.

b. All officers may serve for a maximum of two consecutive, two-year terms in the same office. Each officer may hold one elected office at a time.

Speakers Bureau:

Arnie reported that no requests have come in - how do we promote this feature? Arnie will contact other counties who have successful Speaker's Bureaus

Old Business:

Meeting adjourned at 6:35