

**Master Gardeners of Bergen County  
Board of Directors Minutes for  
March 28, 2017**

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

**Present at the meeting:** Joseph Cooper, Suzanne Danzig, Hank Annunziata, Serpil Leveen, Karen Pennell, Josie Ko, Janet Schulz, Donna Karpel, Dail Reid, Patrick P. Lull, Bruce Walenczyk, Carolyn Gretchen, Dennis Gretchen, Melody Corcoran, Miriam Taub, Teresa Pegg

**Presidents Report:**

The 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Rutgers Home Gardeners School was a sell out with 875 registered attendees. The event featured 37 lectures and workshops, plus the lunch time keynote speaker Dr. David Robinson on New Jersey Climate Variability and Change. Rutgers has posted the handout on the internet, so those of us who don't like paper, we can save the PDF files in our computer.

At the last Rutgers Mater Gardeners Association of New Jersey meeting Mercer County announced they have switched to online volunteer reporting. Details were shared at the board meeting and members agreed to have the IT coder do a presentation for the Board at our next meeting.

Mariners Bank now has an app for depositing checks without going to the bank. This was previously only available for individual accounts and now has expanded to business accounts.

The 2017 Spring Syllabus has been set and posted on our website.

**Vice President:**

Carolyn reported that her first experience at the State Board meeting was impressive, and a bit intimidating but came up with some great ideas for new students.

The Monmouth County School Gardens conference was a wonderful opportunity to brainstorm and glean new ideas with our respective 5th and 1st grade teachers from our school gardens. It is highly recommended for MG's who participate in this type of endeavor.

**Recording Secretary:**

Karen Pennell volunteered to take the notes for minutes at the April board meeting as Suzanne will not be attending the meeting.

**\*Motion:** Karen Pennell motioned to approve February minutes as written, seconded by Melody Corcoran, all approved.

**Corresponding Secretary:**

Serpil has no way of knowing if everyone is getting her e-mails.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Opening Balance as of December 31, 2016.....	\$10,805.80
Income: .....	\$600.00
Expenses: .....	\$125.50
Balance as of December 31, 2016.....	\$11280.30

**\*Motion:** Karen Pennell made a motion to approve the January treasurer's report, Teresa Pegg seconded and all were in favor.

**\*Motion:** Joseph Cooper made a motion to approve the February treasurer's report, Donna Karpel seconded and all were in favor.

**Community Outreach Events and Volunteers:**

Dail was not in attendance, however did tell Joseph that all 5 Earth Day events are 100% filled.

**Garden Club Liaison:**

Lucy was not present at the meeting but provided the following information:

At the moment unless there are some last minute changes, the Cresskill Garden Club is disbanding after this spring. They have an aging membership and no one wants to take a leadership position. Their current president is Mary Ann Harty, who is stepping down. Cresskill has been invited to join the Demarest Garden Club.

Loss of membership is a problem for many clubs, but this is the first time since I am doing this that a club is disbanding.

**Class Liaison:**

Patrick reported that one of the students has not attended class for months and that they were considering her a 'dropout', however, other than that student all students have reported their hours, so they are 100% recorded. Donna Karpel reported that that individual is not considered a dropout, therefore they are not 100% complete.

Class is jelling. The last scheduled class is June 9<sup>th</sup>. Carolyn has asked Patrick to address the class and prep them for their meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup>. They should be broken into groups and assigned topics and projects at the meeting.

Patrick has offered to take on one of the open board positions once his responsibility as Class Liaison is over.

**Speakers Bureau:**

Arnie was not in attendance. Arnie is scheduled to speak at one of the MG classes this semester. It was suggested that we attempt to pool our resources and talents together to form a team effort when it comes to speaking at organizations.

**Publicity:**

Denise was not in attendance. It was confirmed that organizations can post on our facebook page but not individuals.

**Hospitality:**

Hank is asking that a sign-up sheet be implemented for refreshments at our meetings to offer more variety.

**Membership:**

Teresa had nothing to report, John has not been available to pass on any information to Teresa. To date we do not have an updated list of current members and John has not been responding to messages.

**Newsletter:**

Janet introduced Miriam Taub to the board and stated she is really the editor whereas Janet is the collector of information. The Grape Vine is now bundling all announcements.

**Website:**

Monthly updates have been implemented and two sites have been removed, as directed by the Board Members at the February meeting.

We will accept volunteer hours from "Overpeck Park 9/11 Memorial" and "Davis Johnson Park" but will not promote the sites.

**RMGANJ:**

Master Gardeners Coordinators Report: Nick Polanin reported that his department has changed its name to the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. He also reported that Carol Quinn retired and has been replaced by Talia Zirin. Dan Kluchinski is ill but undergoing treatment. Nick reported on Youth Protection updates. There will be classes addressing Youth Protection Training in the future.

Nick reported that with Rutgers' new financial system there is no labor system in effect. The new process will entail W-9 forms, plus receipts. The W-9 form requires using W-9 forms s social security number, so Nick advised using cash. Do not use credit or debit cards when purchasing items for RMGANJ.

2017 Budget: A 10% increase was included in budget. A motion to approve the budget was passed.

Conference 2017: A contract with OPCE was arranged for the Conference in 2017 for October 7, 2017.

Facilities and speakers were announced. Field trips to Rutgers Gardens and the Green Wall will be available to attendees after the conference.

**Sunshine:**

Get Well card sent to Denise George's daughter, Heaven, who had been hospitalized

**Site Coordinator Liaison:**

Hermitage has homemade maple syrup and would like to offer it out for donations, is this something we can put on the website? This is permitted as long as it is regarding one of our sites. Melody also asked about a Girl Scout project and if that would be permitted, not MG related so not permitted.

Hermitage is reworking the garden in the front of the building, would the MGofBC consider donating a tree or other plant material? The response was no, it is not our policy to do this type of thing.

There is not a lot of activity at the Tenafly Nature Center...curious as to why.

**Tours and Trips:**

From Garden Conservancy the Steindhart Garden is not available & they are offering a rooftop garden in East Orange. Requested that we check if In Situ will be available instead.

**Programs:**

Donna was not in attendance. Donna has submitted speakers for next year and has the room reserved for next year.

All refreshments are taken care of for our joint meeting with Passaic and Bergen will take care of drinks.

**Volunteers Records:**

Appears that most of the reports are in since Donna has not received anything lately. Donna has reported that we have received the greatest number of reports this year, a total of 131. In addition, the updated number of hours recorded is 9088. Garretson Forge and Farm recorded the greatest number of hours and Thielke Arboretum now has the second highest number of volunteer hours.

**New Business:**

Karen read the list of nominees for the Master Gardeners "Award for Excellence" and will send the list to the board members so that they might vote on their two choices. It can either be two individuals or one individual and one site. Donna Karpel commented that one nominee did not submit hours or pay dues for 2016, therefore not certified. Joseph mentioned that it was not Karen's responsibility to vet the nominees but to present them, however we should be made aware of such information.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55