

Master Gardeners of Bergen County Board of Directors Minutes for October 24, 2017

Meeting was called to order by President Cooper at 5:30

Present at the meeting: Joseph Cooper, Carolyn Gretchen, Bruce Walenczyk, Donna Faustini, Dennis Gretchen, Terri Pegg, Melody Corcoran, Hank Annunziata, Josie Ko, Karen Pennell, Miriam Taub, Patrick Lull, Karen Riede, Arnie Friedman, Beverly Snyder, Serpil Leveen, Janet Schulz, Mark PENCHINAR, Donna Dorgan

Presidents Report:

Happy to announce Mark Pinchinar from the class of 2016 has agreed to chair the Outreach Committee, Dail Reid will be assisting with the transition.

As mentioned at the last meeting Karen Riede from the class of 2017 is the new RCE Horticulture Assistant. She will be participating in our meetings as the RCE rep. As with the Student Liaison, this is a non-voting seat on the Board, but their input as it relates to the class and RCE matters is appreciated and encouraged.

Beverly Snyder from the class of 2011 will be our new Trips and Tours Chair, Josie Ko will be assisting with the transition. Looking forward to new and exciting tours.

Donna Dorgan has been selected as the 2018 Class Liaison.

County Fair at Van Saun: Good time was had on Saturday, October 21, seeing the students in action and engaging with fair goers. Considering the change in venue and the late decisions made by the parks department, I have to tip my hat to Carolyn and Dennis Gretchen for their efforts and organizing skills.

RMGANJ Conference saw a fantastic turnout of Master Gardeners from across the state. A special congratulations to Donna Karpel and Monica Buesser for their Award for Excellence. We would also like to recognize Cliff Gerenz and Susan Chasmer for their 25-year anniversary as Master Gardeners of Bergen County.

The Master Gardeners of Mercer County is hosting its 11th annual Symposium, featuring four excellent speakers. This event sells out quickly so if you are interested sign up now! Details and links are posted on our website.

Vice President:

Carolyn reported that she attended the state meeting. She suggested we consider a planting or some other workshops, just a one-day event, for veterans and senior citizens. Carolyn and Karen Riede will work on this effort.

Carolyn also suggested we consider a 'Recognition Day' for MGs who work particularly hard or make an extraordinary contribution.

Recording Secretary:

***Motion:** Janet Schulz motioned the minutes from last month's meeting be accepted and Karen Pennell seconded, all were in favor.

Corresponding Secretary:

Treasurer's Report:

Opening Balance as of August 31, 2017.....\$13,308.24
Income:\$108.00
Expenses:\$1,861.23
Balance as of September 30, 2017.....\$11,555.01
In addition, we received a \$100 donation from Gallya Gordon in memory of Jane Furman

***Motion:** Arnie Friedman motioned to approve the treasurer's report, Josie Ko seconded and all were in favor.

Community Outreach Events and Volunteers:

Mark Penchinar reported that he has spoken to Dale Reid for a debriefing.

Garden Club Liaison:

Josie Ko reported that she has spoken to Lucy Malka and has received all the necessary information to manage the transition of this position.

Class Liaison:

Donna Dorgan was introduced as the MG class liaison for 2018.

Speakers Bureau:

Arnie Friedman reported that he continues to look for speakers. He will soon be lecturing to the Teaneck Garden Club and the Tenafly Seniors. In addition, he is working on a lecture regarding replacing turf with other grasses.

Writers Bureau:

Miriam Taub reported that no one has contacted her. She has followed up with Peter Sullivan and she would like to speak to the membership tonight.

Publicity:

Patrick Lull reported that he had photos from the County Fair/Fall Festival and he will post them on the website and YouTube.

Hospitality:

Hank reported that the new Master Gardener Class Breakfast will be held on Friday, October 27 at 10:00am. In addition, the graduation ceremony for the class of 2017 will be held on Saturday, November 18th at noon.

Membership:

Terri Pegg reported that dues have been received from four people, one of which made an additional donation of \$80. The checks have been given to the Treasurer. Terri also reported that 2018 membership renewal forms are available on the website and she has forms available this evening as well.

Newsletter:

Janet had no news to report.

Website:

Updated sections include: home page, Potting Shed, Gardening help, meetings and links, Trips and Tours, Membership Directory and board and committees' pages.

Directory section has been updated with 2018 student list.
Home page features the Mercer County Symposium, Anniversary pins, membership renewal forms and 2017 Fair photos of students.
Rutgers Cooperative Extension e-mail contact was added to the "Gardening Help" section.
Now public has direct access for horticulture and other questions.
2017-18 fall syllabus was added to meeting and events section.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension:

Karen Riede reported the following: Chair of Ag Agen office, Dan Kluchinski, passed away. The interim chair is Nick Polanin. New Statewide MG Coordinator void, two more AG agents are retiring in Hunterdon and Burlington. Unclear when new positions will be filled.
Rutgers has a hiring freeze.
Fall Harvest Festival was fabulous. The MG displays, 4H animals, farmers market were also a success. The Parks department director was please.
MG class of 2016/2017 graduation will be held on Saturday, November 18th at McFaul at noon.
New MG class has 19 students. A few new students may come to Friday's class. Class start time is 10:30 not 10. Looking forward to the MGofBC breakfast on Friday, October 27th.
On Friday Nov. 3rd as part of the Turf IPM, Best Management Practices MG class, CEU's will be available for the PRO-Fact Professional Fertilizer Application Certification & Training Program, created by Dr. Jim Murphy at Rutgers. 10 have signed up. The program is free.

Nominating Committee:

Karen reported:
Per Article II, Section 4 of the Master Gardeners of Bergen County By-Laws, the Nominating Committee (Lucy Malka, Lida Gellman, and Karen Pennell), presented a slate of officers to serve in 2018 at both the October 2017 Executive Board meeting and general meeting. The slate of officers was confirmed at the Executive Board meeting. There were no additional nominees from the floor when the slate of officers was presented to the general membership.

The following slate of officers will be presented for vote at the general November meeting:

President	Carolyn Gretchen
Vice President	Melody Corcoran
Treasurer	Bruce Walencyck
Recording Secretary	Suzanne Danzig
Corresponding Secretary	Smadar Shemmesh

***Motion:** Joseph Cooper motioned to accept the Nominating Committee's Slate of Officers for 2018, Donna Faustini seconded and all approved.

RMGANJ:

The 2018 Fall Conference entitled, Treasure Our Trees, took place on October 7th, at the Rutgers Campus. Our Agricultural Agent, Joel Flagler presented Bergen County's Award for Excellence to Donna Karpel and Monica Buesser. Joseph Cooper made an excellent video again this year, featuring all the award winners. Susan Chasmer and Cliff Gerenz were featured in the video for their 25 years of service. At the Garden Market, Donna Faustini and Karen Pennell raised \$206 in donations from handmade crafts at their table.

Sad News. Daniel Kluchinski, Associate Director of Cooperative Extension and Chair of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, passed away on October 16 at age 54. Dan received his undergraduate degree from Rutgers (CC '85) and his master's from Purdue University in 1987. He spent his career at Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station as a professor and agricultural agent, originally working in Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Mercer County, Dan was an outstanding scientist, educator, administrator and mentor, and touched and influenced the lives of so many.

MG Coordinator's Report: Nick Polanin. Rutgers has a new Chancellor, Dabasish Dutta, who came recently from Purdue U. The new Chancellor is expected to be a good resource for the university and will likely drive some positive change. Those who have met him were positive regarding support for the ag mission and the RCEs. Each college now has its own president. No meeting is planned for the Coordinators in the near future. The 2016 Annual Report is still pending now that Nick is the acting chair for the department, and balancing many responsibilities.

There are two retirements Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey. Nick reported that they are looking at the budget for next year; however, there are no active searches for openings within the RCE structure, even though we have anticipated retirements in two counties.

RMGAJ board nominations will take place in November, a nominating committee was formed.

Sunshine:

Nothing to report.

Site Coordinator Liaison:

Melody Corcoran reported that site presentations to new MG class will be strictly limited to 10 minutes.

Tours and Trips:

Beverly Snyder reported that she has communicated with Josie Ko, former trips and tours chair, regarding the transition.

Programs:

Donna Faustini reported that tonight's speaker was a representative of the Hackensack River Keeper. Next month's speaker, Dr. Fisher is an expert on poinsettias. He will be selling poinsettias following the meeting.

Volunteer Records:

Donna not present.

Old Business:

Resulting from the Online Volunteer Reporting, Management & Correspondence Portal presentation given last month by Matt Frawley, he is proposing a fee \$2500 for the Tracking System/Site since we are the second customer using this service. ½ would be paid up-front and ½ paid upon completion. Any additional service or requirements would be charged at a rate of \$50/hr. The normal cost for Tracking System/Site is \$4000. We must identify a point person to interact with the service provider. The work can be completed in time for our use in 2018. Our historical data can be added to the site.

The system will track volunteer hours, e-mail addresses, names and home addresses, it can be updated by each individual member. Can also be used to distribute the Potting Shed and send out mailings.

An AdHoc committee consisting of Joseph Cooper, Donna Karpel, Terri Pegg and Miriam Taub was formed to write the specifications.

***Motion:** After much discussion, Arnie Friedman motion that we proceed with the system and the budget not exceed \$3000, Patrick Lull seconded, the motion was approved with 18 ayes and 1 abstention.

Joseph Cooper reported that the microphones were missing from the equipment bag and the estimated cost to replace is approximately \$100-\$150. Patrick Lull was asked to purchase them as equipment manager.

***Motion:** Joseph Cooper motioned to approve the purchase not to exceed \$200, Carolyn Gretchen seconded and all approved.

New Business:

Meeting adjourned at 6:45