

**Master Gardeners of Bergen County
Board of Directors Minutes for
March 27, 2018**

Meeting was called to order by Carolyn Gretchen at 5:30.

Present at the meeting: Joseph Cooper, Carolyn Gretchen, Suzanne Danzig, Dennis Gretchen, Terri Pegg, Melody Corcoran, Hank Annunziata, Karen Pennell, Miriam Taub, Mark Penchinar, Donna Dorgan, Donna Karpel, Karen Riede, Dorothy Penkalski, Smadar Shemmesh, Bruce Walenczyk, Donna Faustini, Arnie Friedman.

President's Report

Due to a state audit, a change in Joel's schedule, and three nor'easters in four weeks, our meeting at the Veteran's Memorial Home in Paramus had to be rescheduled for Friday, April 6th at 2:00 PM. At that time, we will draw a layout of the garden, and coordinate with Joel, the Volunteer Director, Susan, and the Recreation Director, Anthony.

Special thanks to Cliff Gerenz for the donation of a no-kneel weed puller. We can either use it as a door prize at the joint meeting with Passaic County, or use it at the Veteran's Home. Please send me your wishes.

We are so fortunate to have such giving members! Another thanks goes to Karen Reide, who sits on the board of the Audubon Society. It is my understanding that they are willing to donate some plants for the Butterfly Garden to be planted at the Veteran's Home.

If any of our members are separating overcrowded perennials in their gardens and would like to donate, please just text, call, or email me. Thank you!

It is amazing to see how the Board members and Committee Chairs have expanded their job responsibilities since 2012. Thanks to everyone who conscientiously handed in their rewrites. Our approved sites are starting to wake up after the delay of spring this year. Have you considered exploring a new one this year or asking a fellow gardener to join you at one of your favorite ones? Think about giving it a try!

Vice President:

Recording Secretary:

***Motion:** Melody Corcoran motioned to approve February 27 board meeting minutes, Carolyn Gretchen seconded and all were in favor.

Corresponding Secretary:

Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report - Bruce Walenczyk:

***Motion:** Karen Pennell motion to approve February 27 Treasurer's Report, Joseph Cooper seconded, and all approved.

Opening Balance as of December 31, 2017.....	\$12,115.70
Income:.....	\$730.00
Expenses:.....	\$125.00
Balance as of January 31, 2018.....	\$12,720.70

***Motion:** Arnie motioned to approve the March Treasurer's Report, Joseph Cooper seconded, and all approved.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension - Karen Riede:

Karen has been getting several requests for school and community gardens. Robin Lowenthal is responsible for schools and Laura DeFlora oversees community gardens. Jersey City School is seeking assistant with their garden, but Hudson County does not have MG organization, so this will be passed on to Robin.

Programs - Donna Faustini:

April 23rd meeting speaker is Leslie Parness from Morristown on "Civil War Medicinal Plants"
May: forager Paul Tappendum will offer a two-part lecture: there will be 3:30-5 walk and talk possibly at Van Saun and then a lecture at the MG meeting. There will be a fee of \$15 for the walk and talk.

Dates are approved for next year; September 24, October 22, November 26

Speakers Bureau - Arnie Friedman:

Lyndhurst is looking for a speaker, they are not sure on what though.
Rutherford Garden Club is also looking for a speaker on June 2 on "No-mow Lawns".

Writer's Bureau:

No report.

Volunteer Records - Donna Karpel:

Donna sent out last call emails. Total number of volunteer hours was 8816 for 2017, about on target. Donna provided a report outlining the hours for each site as well as the top volunteer sites: Garretson Forge and Farm recorded the most number of hours with the Hermitage coming in second and Skylands third.

Donna also brought up "Lifetime Master Gardeners": Two members qualify for "Lifetime Master Gardeners" for 2018- Inge Langer and Edith Wallace, this will be announced at tonight's meeting. When do we want to officially present these awards? President should announce the honorees in January and note in Potting Shed. The Certificate and perhaps a plant or flowers will be presented possibly at the Summer Picnic.

Archivist - Dorothy Penkalski:

Nothing received. Nothing to report. Dorothy still needs to retrieve a box of archive materials from Clifford Gerenz, hopefully this month.

Class Liaison - Donna Dorgan:

Flatrock Brook made a presentation to class hoping to get volunteers, so it is not delisted. They are putting up deer fencing.

Joel is giving a class on "Ticks".

Community Outreach - Mark Penchinar:

All five spring events are full. Two events are coming up in the fall; 9/15 "Riverfest" and 9/29 "Fall Harvest"

Hospitality - Hank Annunziata:

We alternate each year at our joint meeting with Passaic as to who provided the food, this year MGofBC will provide the food and Hank is working on coordinating that.

Potting Shed – Miriam Taub/Janet Shulz

Janet asked about mailing the newsletter to certain members who do not have computers, Carolyn would like to email only but Joseph thinks we should send out the 4-5 that have been requested. Janet and Miriam will make calls to those people to confirm that they are current with their dues.

Membership – Terri Pegg:

Terri and Donna Karpel are proof reading the directory. The reason it is so late is due to checks still coming in for 2018 dues. In the past when someone did not pay their dues they were not listed in the directory. How long should Terri wait to do the directory? Carolyn suggested that the February meeting be the cut-off date. Joseph said we can still update the website even after the cut-off date.

Publicity - Patrick Lull:

Patrick is still out and was supposed to be having another procedure. We wish him a speedy recovery.

RMGANJ - Karen Pennell:

RMGANJ Report:

Nick was asked if a new Coordinator would be named to our organization. He reported that there is quite a bit of interest due to the amount of volunteer hours MG's provide around the state

MASTER GARDENER'S COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Nick Polanin reported that coordinators are sending in annual reports from 2017. Larry Katz is stepping down as Director of Extension and Brian Schilling will replace him. Brian is a process driven Ag Economist. Burlington is in the midst of hiring a new coordinator. There have been several retirements in RCE. One concern is that there are no animal science experts left in RCE, which is a big gap in a state with a lot of animals.

Nick asked that the counties interact with Talia Zirin, his admin, regarding expenses. PO's are required. She can be reached at zirin@njaes.rutgers.edu, 848-932- 3590. Nick thanked the NJ flower show volunteers.

CONFERENCE UPDATE AND CHANGES: 2018 Conference will take place October 6th, 2018. A budget review took place and conference expenses are expected to increase this year and to exceed our current funds. Several ideas were discussed to reduce cost, keeping in mind conference feedback. Review of possible changes to Recognition Ceremony. Review of possibly adding to the amount of CEU'S. Discussion of Rutgers Master Gardener apparel to be offered and obtaining Rutgers logo approval.

List of nominees from Bergen County for the 'Award for Excellence' were discussed. Voting will take place by next meeting.

Sunshine - Dennis Gretchen:

Beverly received a card from the board and Dennis is reaching out to Patrick.

Trips and Tours:

Josie has volunteered to do one tour. Question was posed to anyone else who might like to volunteer to organize a tour.

Garden Club Liaison-Josie Ko:

No report.

Site Liaison Coordinator – Melody Corcoran:

Melody raised the question as to how we delist a site due to none activity. To date there are no written procedures to list or delist a site. Carolyn and Melody will work on specific guidelines.

Carolyn suggested we call the site first to get the site coordinators feedback and Melody should be contacted, as Volunteer Site Coordinator.

Several questions have been raised about special projects;

-Hillsdale School, concerns about Rutgers restrictions as it relates to interactions with students, however, Bob, the coordinator at the school is vetted.

-Center for Food Action garden was raised by Smadar, needs clarification.

Arnie reported that Davis Johnson Park contacted him asking for assistance redesigning the Rose Garden. If they go ahead with it they would be looking for volunteers again, but there would need to be a site coordinator in place before that happens.

Web site – Joseph Cooper:

MGofBC.org website updated sections include: The Homepage, Potting Shed, Meetings and Events.

Volunteer & Membership Portal Progress:

Section 2: Membership Information Page has been completed.

Section 3: Volunteer Reporting completed.

Section 4: Administrative page is 95% done and should be ready for testing soon.

New business:

Meetings for the Fall Harvest Festival start in the summer, looking for someone to volunteer to coordinate these meetings.

Carolyn suggested we have a board member greet members at the meetings. Donna Faustini offered to be a greeter at the April meeting and Karen will greet at the May meeting.

Meeting adjourned 6:55