

**Master Gardeners of Bergen County
Board of Directors Minutes for
November 26, 2019**

Meeting was called to order by President Gretchen at 5:10 pm.

Present at the meeting: Carolyn Gretchen, Dennis Gretchen, Melody Corcoran, Miriam Taub, Karen Riede, Janet Schulz, Marie Alfano, Herb Arbeiter, Joseph Cooper, Terri Pegg, Arnie Friedman, Donna Faustini, Patrick Lull, Suzanne Danzig, Lorelei Koran, Bruce Walenczyk, Karen Pennell, Karen Sasso

Bylaws Report:

Karen Pennell summarized the changes to the MGofBC bylaws and appendix which were recently updated by a committee chaired by Edith Wallace. The bylaws and appendix were discussed, changes were made, and a vote was taken to approve, with the changes, to be passed along to the membership at the general meeting on January 21, 2020. The following is a summary (outside of grammar and format) of changes that were made.

The Executive Board was revamped in the following manner:

- The Vice President will serve as a delegate or alternate to the RMGANJ.
- The Recording Secretary will also distribute final copies of the minutes to webmaster, collect year-end reports and take on the duties of the Archivist.
- The Corresponding Secretary will take on the duties of the Sunshine committee.
- The Treasurer will file reports and/or fees in order to maintain non-profit status.
- The Community Outreach Liaison will include these two additional subcommittees: Publicity and Speakers Bureau.
- The Newsletter committee will take on the duties of the Garden Liaison.
- The Programs committee will include two subcommittees: Programs and Trips & Tours.
- The Nominating committee will be appointed in May instead of September. This committee will present a slate in September instead of October. The vote will take place in October instead of November.
- Term limits for Officers were changed. This matter was voted on and approved at the November 15, 2016 board meeting and approved by the general membership in May 2017.

Lifetime Membership designation was added. This was approved at the February 27, 2017 board meeting and approved by the general membership in May 2017.

An addition to the Appendix which contains the job description of the committees and subcommittees.

***Motion:** Karen Pennell made a motion to accept the updated bylaws and appendix as of November 26 to be presented at the January meeting for a vote by the general membership. Arnie Seconded and all were in favor.

Presidents Report:

Carolyn encouraged everyone to come to the holiday party from noon to 2 on December 3rd. Also mentioned that Susan Sheridan, who coordinates docents for the Holiday Open House, will speak during tonight's announcements requesting volunteers for docents at the upcoming Holiday Open House.

Vice President:

No report.

Recording Secretary:

Suzanne Danzig was not present.

***Motion:** Arnie Friedman motioned to approve the October 22 minutes, Dennis Gretchen seconded, and all were in favor. There was no discussion about last month's minutes.

Corresponding Secretary:

No report from Miriam.

Treasurer's Report:

Opening balance as of September 30, 2019.....	\$10,335.24
Income.....	\$ 0.00
Expenses.....	\$548.66
Closing balance as of October 31, 2019.....	\$9,786.58

Bruce noted that 2020 dues are beginning to come in.

***Motion:** Donna Faustini motioned to approve Treasurers' report, Karen Pennell seconded and all approved.

Community Outreach Events and Volunteers:

Karen reported that Jeff Chan's wife is in rehab. She wondered what will happen to Outreach next year as Jeff handles Outreach.

Class Liaison:

Karen Riede introduced Karen Sasso, Class of 2020, as the back-up liaison to Lorelei Koran. Representatives from Thielke Arboretum and Teaneck Creek Conservancy speak to the Class of 2020. Carolyn encouraged the liaisons to visit multiple volunteer sites. Lorelei said she took a poll of her class and about 60% of the students reported they requested passwords to the MGofBC website.

Speakers Bureau:

Arnie indicated that a revised web page for the Speakers Bureau was posted. Arnie reported that Peter Sullivan (a non-dues paying MG) contacted him in response to a story in November Potting Shed that Arnie was looking for someone to speak on the tope, of recycling/composting. Peter said he would like to talk about his red wiggler worms. Arnie noted that they were in the same MG class and that years ago Arnie asked Peter not to mix business and volunteering. Arnie thinks we need to clarify that if you are going to volunteer you should be a paid member. Joseph added that Peter was trying to promote his business related to the worms.

***Motion:** Arnie motioned that only paid-up members and friends of Joel receive the Potting Shed. Karen Pennell seconded, and all were in favor.

We will make an announcement in the December Potting Shed that as of March 2020, only current dues paying members will receive the Potting Shed. Miriam will work with Terri to eliminate the non-dues payers who are on the distribution list.

Publicity:

Patrick not in attendance

Hospitality:

Hank not in attendance

Membership:

Terri reported that 44 people have paid their dues for 2020 already.

Newsletter:

The December Potting Shed will have a variety of articles...stay tuned.

Website:

The following webpages of www.MGofBC.org have been updated; The HomePage, Potting Shed, Speakers Bureau.

The SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) Certificate has been added to site for higher security of information transferred through the site.

Membership Portal Progress: Matt has made some updates, but we are still waiting for completion of requested changes to the data entry and reports sections.

Joseph reported that there are glitches with getting into the membership directory. When you click on it, it is blank. To use the online directory, you have to enter the password-protected section of the website through another link, such as the Potting Shed archives, then switch to the directory.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension:

1. The MG Class of 2019 had their graduation on 11/16. It was well attended and featured some kind remarks from Freeholder Mary Amoroso from the MG Class of 1989. She is a big supporter of RCE in general and the MG Program, in particular. The Class of 2018 put out a fine buffet with tasty and beautiful food and treats.
2. A new fact sheet has come out of Rutgers/NJAES. It is about growing Cannabis sativa and focus on hemp-a low THC form. It has good pictures and cultural info. Many farmers and home horticulturists are poised to dive into the growing of this exciting new crop. Indeed, many farm families, especially in South Jersey see Cannabis as an important niche crop, with high value, to generate far more income than previously realized on the same land. Here is the link to the Rutgers NJAES fact sheet- *Introduction to Industrial Hemp-Basic Production Agronomy*; <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1312/>
3. The North Jersey Orn Hort Conference has been set for January 6,7,8, 2020. It is at County College of Morris (CCM), as always. The programs are great, and the registration fee includes breakfast and hot lunch. The MG community is welcome, at a recued rate, and my new MG class is coming to Landscape Day on Wednesday, January 8. Featured speakers include Bruce Crawford, Director of the Rutgers Gardens; Chris Rubino of Monrovia; Carole Stanko, NJ Chief of Wildlife, wo will speak on deep management. Also, the excellent Rich Buckley from the Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Lab, and Steve Bross of NJDEP, will round out the program. Join us! Watch for registration info soon.

RMGANJ:

Reviewed Fall Conference evolutions.

Introduced new members joining us for the meeting.

Nominated new officers to the executive board of 2020, Dennis Lenahan is a nominee for President, Roberta Quinn for Treasurer and Dave Parson for Vice President. Joseph Cooper will hold the position of corresponding secretary for another year.

Master Gardener's Coordinator's report: Jan Zientek reported that he is in the process of tracking down the OCPPE money. He said he has heard good feedback on the October Conference, especially the theme

which attendees' thought was particularly relevant. Jan reported that progress has been made on the proposal for the digital logbook for the help-lines statewide. It is awaiting approval of the funds to get started, which should come soon. Jan reported that he enjoyed the 25th Anniversary party for the Mercer County MG Program. The coordinators are meeting 12/4 and going over Better Impact rollout and Master Gardener safety, since there have been several injuries lately. Suzanne Keane asked if Jan will be giving the pins to the coordinators at the meeting, he replied that he will. Reviewed 2020 Conference tasks for each county along with conference themes and list of potential speakers.

Sunshine:

Nothing to report.

Site Coordinator Liaison:

Melody reported that we have two new site coordinators from the Class of 2019- Herb Arbeiter for Thielke Arboretum and Gideon Karlick for the Hackensack River Greenway through Teaneck.

Programs:

Donna Faustini reported that Marc Gussen will speak about hydroponics tonight. In January, Chris Rubino from Monrovia will discuss new plants. He does not charge for his presentation. Donna noted this savings could allow us to pay a higher amount for another speaker. She has booked a naturalist coming in May. A possible speaker is a representative from Toadshade Wildflower Farm in Frenchtown, NJ.

Volunteer Records:

Donna Karpel not in attendance but sent in her report:

Donna has received several reports already, some were very early and reminded a few to only send them in if they are done volunteering for the year.

Old Business:

Carolyn made one more mention of 'mentoring', which has been successful in Ocean County. She suggested we can contact Ocean County MGs and perhaps undertake the mentoring program in the new year. Arnie suggested putting together a committee to investigate; he thinks the committee would need at least six months of planning.

***Motion:** Arnie motioned to pursue the mentoring program. Dennis seconded the motion.

Joseph volunteered to contact Ocean County and report next month.

New Business:

Carolyn reported that Marie Alfano from the class of 2019 will do hort therapy at the Veteran's Home and Carolyn will be her "mentor". There is a new volunteer coordinator at the VA home. Carolyn is hoping that person will come up with a crafts budget.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.