

**Master Gardeners of Bergen County  
Board of Directors Minutes for  
January 21, 2020**

Meeting was called to order by President Gretchen at 5:33 pm.

**Present at the meeting:** Carolyn Gretchen, Dennis Gretchen, Melody Corcoran, Miriam Taub, Karen Riede, Janet Schulz, Joseph Cooper, Terri Pegg, Donna Faustini, Patrick Lull, Suzanne Danzig, Lorelei Koran, Karen Pennell, Donna Karpel, Patricia Vellas, Jane Nicholson

**Presidents Report:**

Carolyn reviewed the Holiday Party of 2019 and indicated that most members enjoyed being in one large room together. If you have suggestion for improvements for next year please share them with Melody, or the designated committee.

Carolyn reminded the outgoing Executive Board Officers and chairs to submit their annual report to Karen Riede by January 31, 2020.

A membership vote by 2/3rds of the active membership present at the general meeting will be taken to approve the most recent changes to MGofBC Bylaws. The Bylaws were approved by the board

Carolyn thanked all for their guidance and support during her tenure as President.

Melody reported that she, Pat Vellas and Bruce Walenczyk met to transfer bank statements and signatures to Melody and Pat.

**Vice President:**

No report.

**Recording Secretary:**

Suzanne Danzig requested a motion to approve the minutes from November 26, 2019

**\*Motion:** Terri Pegg motioned to approve the November 26 minutes, Dennis Gretchen seconded, and all were in favor. There was no discussion about last month's minutes.

**Corresponding Secretary:**

Miriam reported that she sent get well cards to Agnes Adler and Fred Guidotti.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Pat Vellas, our new treasurer, provided the board with a very detailed budget report for the upcoming year of 2020, along with a report for the last two months, outlined below.

*November's report:*

Opening balance as of October 31, 2019.....	\$9,786.58
Income.....	\$530.00
Expenses.....	\$250.00
Closing balance as of November 30, 2019.....	\$10,066.58

*December's report:*

Opening balance as of November 30, 2019.....	\$10,066.58
Income.....	\$1020.00
Expenses.....	\$731.15
Closing balance.....	\$10,355.43

**\*Motion:** Terri Pegg motioned that the Treasurer's report be approved, Donna Karpel seconded and all were in favor.

### **Community Outreach Events and Volunteers:**

Karen R will assist Jeffrey Chan with Outreach events while he is caring for his wife. She will send out blasts looking for volunteers for each event.

*The following is a list of the events that MGofBC participated in 2019:*

Sat., 4/6 Bergen County Multicultural Family Fun, Van Saun Park, Paramus

Sun., 4/14 Ridgewood Daffodil & Earth Day Festival, Ridgewood

Mon., 4/22 Earth Day event for BC Employee Wellness Program, 1 Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack

Sun., 4/28 Party for the Planet, BC Zoo at Van Saun Park, Paramus

Sat., 5/11 Ridgefield Park Earth Day, Ridgefield Park

Sun., 5/19 Earthfest Overpeck, Ridgefield Park

Wed., 7/31 BC Employee Wellness Program, 1 Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack - PowerPoint Basics of Gardening by MG Robyn Lowenthal

Thurs., 9/5 BC Annual Senior Citizens Picnic, Van Saun Park, Paramus

Sat., 9/21 & Sun., 9/22 Bergen Fall Harvest Fair, Van Saun Park, Paramus

### **Class Liaison:**

Lorelei reported that the class attended workshops at the County College of Morris in January for 'Landscape Day'

### **Speakers Bureau:**

This webpage has been updated with a robust list of speakers.

### **Garden Club Liaison:**

Miriam reported that the various clubs are beginning to get the hang of providing their meeting dates and speakers. Donna Faustini requested a date for the 'Tea' as she has to put in a request for the room.

### **Publicity:**

### **Hospitality:**

Holiday party was a great success, members enjoyed being in one room. Center for Hope and Safety was the recipient of the proceeds from the centerpieces, we donated \$250 to the Center.

### **Membership:**

Terri reported that 108 members paid dues to date. A handful of members expressed an interest in various committees, and she passed that information on to Melody.

### **Newsletter:**

April Barth is the interviewee this month, class of 2017.

### **Website:**

The following MGofBC.org webpages have been updated: The Homepage, Potting Shed, Speakers Bureau, Volunteer Sites, Membership Directory.

As per Rutgers State Coordinator Jan Zientek, Rutgers will be transitioning all County Master Gardener programs to use the "Better Impact" system for reporting volunteer hours and promoting events. This will make it easier for members to report hours, as well as eliminate the responsibility of the MG of BC Board

to track and report volunteer and education hours to Rutgers. Due to this change by Rutgers, we will eliminate the volunteer reporting section of the website and keep the Membership and Email Correspondence sections.

There was a glitch in our current email system that is being hosted by StartLogic and is being addressed by their tech support.

### **Rutgers Cooperative Extension:**

By Joel Flagler:

- Cercospora leaf spot is an important and rapidly emerging problem. It is a disease that affects beets and Swiss chard. In South Jersey it has become hard to manage. The soil-borne pathogen can live two years in the plant debris on the ground and also on many nearby weed hosts. Further, the fungus is resistant to typical fungicide interventions. Initial symptoms include tan spots on the leaves and purple along the margin. Wet weather favors the disease, esp in warm weather. There are updates on this disease in the recent Rutgers Plant Pest Advisory.
- I am working with Greens Do Good Farm in a new agricultural operation in Hackensack. In an old warehouse. They grow microgreens and several types of basil, hydroponically, and sell to restaurants/caterers. Additionally, the labor force includes adults with developmental disabilities; bringing a new set of benefits of the business and all involved. It is an interesting new face of urban farming; everything is grown vertically under lights.
- The old Robin Hood Inn conference series is alive and well and celebrating its 59th year! Now known as the North Jersey Ornamental Hort Conference, we trained over 500 participants last week at the County College of Morris. The Rutgers team of 5 works hard to deliver a top-quality series of conferences. Tree Day attracted 100 arborists and tree experts; Turf Day trained 190 sports turf managers, golf course, parks and cemetery managers. Landscape Day was awesome with updates on deer, native plants, new Monrovia introductions and more. Most of the professional attendees come from Bergen and Morris Counties, with some coming from Union, Passaic and Essex. Evaluations indicate that attendees highly value this conference series and adopt practices (e.g. IPM) as a result of the training. They report applying fewer chemical pesticides and fewer unnecessary fertilizer application as a result of the increased soil testing. This is an important impact that Rutgers/NJAES has on the huge green industries.
- My newest class of Master Gardener interns is about to start their 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of training. They are already volunteering at the County Garretson Farm in Fair Lawn, the Thielke arboretum in Glen Rock, and several helped decorate the Skylands Manor House for their Christmas Open House (NJ Botanical Garden).
- The Bergen Fall Harvest Festival is scheduled for Friday 9/25, Sat. 9/26 and Sun. 9/27. So please mark your calendars.

### **RMGANJ:**

Better Impact software will be implemented across the state.

Master Gardeners from each county will use this new program to submit their CEU's and volunteer hours. A trial calendar will be set up so MG's across the state can participate in events such as The Great Tomato Tasting.

New officers were elected.

Conference items: A conference theme was discussed; tasks were assigned to each county.

2020 action list derived from the survey results was discussed and a vote was taken on items to implement changes.

Potential speakers were discussed.

**Sunshine:**

Nothing to report.

**Site Coordinator Liaison:**

Jeff Chan is somewhat limited to home duties due to his wife's illness and asked about the Zoo site coordinator responsibilities, Donna Karpel will ask Jeff if he would like someone to cover for him temporarily.

**Programs:**

Donna Faustini reported the following speakers for upcoming meetings:

-Chris from Monrovia this evening

-February: Michael Wilson "Rock Gardening" he also does a program on climate change, but it is ½ longer. It was agreed that we should stick with "Rock Gardening" for time sake.

-March: Carrie Buckman from North Jersey Orchid Society

\_April: Randy Eichert, 'Propagation of Natives'

May: Chuck Steed 'Naturalist'

September: Frank Mortimer from North Jersey Bee Assoc on 'Bees'

**Volunteer Records:**

Donna reported recording the volunteer/education hours has been challenging as many members are sending incomplete reports.

Last year we recorded 7500 hours, to date we have recorded 7500 hours but still have all the paper submissions to record which is approximately 1500 hours and still anticipating another 30 reports.

A special note: the class of 2019 is the first to ever exceed previous classes first years by 1000 hours. Congratulations!!!

**Old Business:****New Business:**

-The introduction of the new Executive Board members will take place at tonight's general meeting.

-Committee Chair reports are due by January 31, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.