

Master Gardeners of Bergen County
Board of Directors Minutes for November 17, 2020

The Meeting commenced at 5:40 pm via ZOOM with Arnie Friedman and
Melody Corcoran as co hosts

Present at the meeting: Miriam Taub, Patricia Vellas, Jane Nicholson, Donna Faustini, Suzanne Danzig, Melody Corcoran, Karen Riede, Arnie Friedman, Karen Pennell, Terri Pegg, Janet Schulz, Autumn O' Shea, and Joseph Cooper

Presidents Report:

Melody Corcoran

No Report

Topics discussed in Old Business

Vice President:

Suzanne Danzig

No report.

Recording Secretary:

Jane Nicholson

The minutes were provided by Jane Nicholson for the last meeting of October 20, 2020.

***Motion:** Melody Corcoran requested a motion to approve the minutes of October 20, 2020 and Suzanne Danzig seconded, all were in favor, none opposed.

Corresponding Secretary:

Miriam Taub

No Report

Sent out November Potting Shed and Mid November Update

Treasurer’s Report:

Pat Vellas

Pat Vellas provided a detailed Treasurer’s Report, summarized as follows:

Month Ending October 31,2020	
Opening balance as of September 30, 2020	\$12,516.61
come.....	\$ 100.00
Donation Rivervale Library	
Total Income.....	\$ 100.00
Expenses	\$ 150.00
October 20 Speakers Fee F. Mortimer	
October 20 Donation Center for Food Action	\$ 100.00
Total Expenses	\$ 250.00
Closing balance as of October 31,2020	\$12,216.61
Total Outstanding Checks.....	\$ 0.00
Bank Statement Balance as of October 31, 2020.....	...\$ 12,216.61

Pat stated she received a “Thank You” letter from the Center for Food Action. Among its noteworthy accomplishments the Center report over 70,000 people to date.

***Motion:** Arnie Friedman made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report and Miriam Taub seconded the motion, all were in favor, and none opposed.

Old Business

Melody Corcoran

New website platform

Miriam and Arnie had been researching on line various Website platform developers. As an example of what might be available to us in creating our new Website, Miriam prepared a chart for the Board comparing two likely vendors (GoDaddy and MorWeb). See attached.



Website
summary.docx

The Board discussed at length the pros and cons of finding the proper developer in respect to cost, design and maintenance. Regarding cost, it appears a professional builder could charge over \$6000 a year for building and maintaining a website. The designers did offer a cheaper “basic” design but this meant we would lose some of the features in the Member section of our current Website, in particular, the Membership Directory. Some Board members thought we might find a cheaper designer. However, Miriam and Suzanne agreed that we should be prepared to pay possibly \$5,000 or so to obtain a builder to get the type of Website we want. It would be a good investment and a “giveback” to the community.

The Board did consider less costly alternatives to having the Membership Directory on the Website. They discussed the use of Better Impact. Karen R. will see if Rutgers can help in the design of our website and/ or finding another source for the Membership Directory.

Having more photos was one of the ideas the Board mentioned when they were discussing what items they would like to see on the new website. Karen R. reminded the Board that Rutgers required written consent when using “face” pictures.

In the end it was agreed that the Board needed someone more knowledgeable to assist them in their search for a designer. Arnie thought we should reach out to our membership and community. It was thought we could make a request for help in our general meetings and in the Potting Shed. Members will also see if their contacts in Garden Clubs and other counties can assist us.

AV Equipment

Melody has been trying to contact Patrick via phone to see what AV equipment he still has in his possession. Joseph Cooper stated that he has the computer and projector. It is assumed that Patrick would have the microphone and speakers. Melody will continue to follow up with Patrick to get a full listing.

Hospitality Supplies

The Hospitality Chair, Sandi Liberti, has told Melody that she has secured all the supplies and is ready to serve us coffee.

Better Impact

Melody stated she entered 10 minutes into the system and it “took”. Autumn confirmed that you need not enter time in 15 minute increments in Better Impact.

Committee Reports

MG Class Liaison

Lorelei Koran

Not Present

Community Outreach

Karen Riede

No Report

Garden Club Liaison

Miriam Taub

No Report

Hospitality

Sandi Liberti

Not present but in contact with Melody to say she is ready to provide coffee as noted earlier.

Membership

Terri Pegg

Twenty four paid dues and checks were sent to the Treasurer.

Newsletter

Miriam Taub
Janet Schulz

November Potting Shed and Mid November Updates were sent to members.

Programs

Donna Faustini

Carrie Buchman will be presenting “Orchids” at tonight’s general meeting. Arnie will be making a presentation in January, Chris Rubino in February and Bill Kovack in March (Grasses).

The Board discussed the cost of fees for future Zoom presentations as to whether the fees should be less for virtual presentations because there are no travel costs to the presenter. In general, as MG of BC has not been spending a great deal of money, it was thought that an exceptional presenter on Zoom such as Bruce Crawford (who might charge in excess of \$300) would be a good draw for future meetings and worth the cost.

Publicity

Patrick Lull

Patrick has not been in attendance at MG of BC board meetings since January. Karen Riede stated that she has spoken to Patrick and it seems he would still like to be involved. However, members were not

sure what the protocol for dropping a member might be, that is, lack of attendance (missing more than two months) or membership status. Patrick has reported only 19 hours in 2019. The issue was tabled for a future date after Melody has had a discussion with Patrick and obtained more information regarding his status with the Board of MG of BC.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension Liaison

Karen Riede provided the following report from Joel Flagler.:

RCE Report to the MG Board Mtg. 11/17/20

Joel Flagler

1) Rutgers University and the NJAES are facing decisions about what their roles will be in helping NJ residents to grow high-quality marijuana and manage pests and apply IPM practices to this popular new crop. The complication is that Federal laws still forbid it, while NJ has voted to de-criminalize it. NJ farmers, esp in the southern and central counties, are more than a little interested in this new high value crop. Rutgers will have to take a stand on how to manage the myriad requests coming in asking for help in new cannabis growing start-up businesses.

2) The launch of the new statewide MG program is expected in spring of 2021 there are committees working on training modules but there is much work yet to do. Karen and I revised the module on tree science. There is concern that standardizing the program faces major challenges since some counties offer 100 hours of training and require similar # volunteer hours. Other counties require half that amount. Still other counties train adults and do not require any volunteering at all.

3) Rutgers is likely to extend the period of virtual learning-- but the decision about campus activity for spring 2021 is yet to be made. Whatever they decide for the campus will be what we do in Extension. So, if they continue to keep the suspension on in-class learning and in-person activity for SEBS, the entire Extension service will do likewise. Thus, the MG program, along with 4-H and ag events and twilight meetings will stay "virtual only". It has been a tough and crazy year. It is likely to continue into spring semester.

RMGANJ

Karen Pennell

No formal Report

There will be no 2021 Class this year. It will be postponed until fall with some online learning. Karen R. mentioned that the 2020 Class needs 100 hours of volunteer service each when activities resume.

Site Coordinator Liaison

Melody Corcoran

No report. Sites closed for remainder of year.

Speakers Bureau

Arnie Friedman

The Speakers Bureau continue to get requests for presentations. Arnie stated that he had reminded some speakers that they could not charge a fee (donation to MG of BC only) but if their presentation was not in Bergen County it might be a possibility to charge a fee.

Volunteer Records

Autumn J. O'Shea

No Report

Website

Joseph Cooper

Joseph is continuing to update the Website . He stated that we have about 10,000 visits to our website yearly. He will also see if he can get some feedback from Rutgers regarding finding the another ite for the membership directory.

New Business

Melody Corcoran

Melody asked for suggestions for New Business and received none. Later in the week (via email) she reminded the Board to submit their Yearly Reports.

Adjournment

***Motion:** Arnie Friedman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded by Joseph Cooper, all agreed, none opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.

The meeting was closed at 6:40 pm.