

**Master Gardener Association of Bergen County
Board Meeting Minutes – November 16, 2021**

Present: Co-Hosting – Melody Corcoran and Arnie Friedman, Karen Riede, Joseph Cooper, Suzanne Danzig, Theresa Schneider, Karen Pennell, Miriam Taub, Herb Arbeiter, Sandi Liberti, Elizabeth Gil, Pat Vellas, Donna Faustini, Keith Mazanec, Janet Schulz

Absent: Autumn O’Shea

The meeting was called to order by President Corcoran at 5:32 PM

Officer Reports:

President – Melody Corcoran

No report, however she thanked Suzanne for volunteering to be our new Volunteer Records Chairperson, replacing Autumn O’Shea.

Vice President – Suzanne Danzig

No report, however she inquired about perhaps getting the Board together for the holidays

Treasurer – Pat Vellas

Pat summarized the Treasurer’s report

Opening Balance as of: September 30, 2021	\$ 12,476.86
Income:	
Membership fees	\$ 40.00
Member donation	\$ 10.00
Memorial donations (Angelo Pietrunti)	\$ 400.00
Speaker donation	\$ 75.00

Total Income:	\$ 525.00
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Expenses:	
Fall Festival Supplies – Sandi Liberti	\$ (106.87)
Presentation – Lesley Parness	(225.00)

Total Expenses:	\$ (331.87)
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Closing Balance as of October 31, 2021	\$ 12,669.99
Total Outstanding checks: Presentation – Lesley Parness	\$ 225.00

Bank Statement Balance: as of October 31, 2021	\$ 12,894.99
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***Motion:** Arnie motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Report and Joseph seconded the motion. APPROVED.

Following the approval of the Treasurer’s Report, Pat initiated a discussion concerning the current location of our P.O. Box, and how checks for Speakers Bureau presentations are handled. Arnie clarified that we do not charge fees, however, organizations may make donations to the Master Gardeners of Bergen County and send them to the P.O. Box in Glen Rock. Pat suggested that, in the interest of speeding up the process, the P.O. Box be moved to New Milford. Arnie inquired if checks sent to the current P.O. Box, could be forwarded by the Post Office to Pat’s home address. Theresa researched this, and the Post Office will only do this for up to six months.

Motion: Motion made by Arnie to move the P.O. Box from its current location in Glen Rock to New Milford. Motion was seconded by Suzanne. APPROVED. Pat will facilitate the relocation of the P.O. Box.

Recording Secretary – Keith Mazanec

Keith stated that the final copy of the October 19, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes had been sent out to all Board Members for review, and that if there were no changes or questions, propose that a motion be made to approve them.

***Motion:** Suzanne motioned to approve the October, 2021 Meeting Minutes; Joseph seconded the motion. APPROVED.

Corresponding Secretary – Miriam Taub:

The November Potting Shed and mid-month update have both been sent out.

Old Business:

Website Update Requests, update pricing

Miriam updated the Board on prior website change requests; the costs (following consulting with website designer Gayle Clayton) associated with making them; the rationale for either making specific changes to the website or not and recommendations going forward.

Following a discussion on the update requests, the following was decided:

- The Home page would remain as is.
- Add a new link to post specific news items, ex., special native plants issue of Potting Shed. Cost: \$100.
- Under “Make a donation” heading, change wording concerning speakers donations
- Move “sign-in” tab to the top of the navigation bar.
- On the home page, change verbiage from “Becoming a Master Gardener” to “Become a Master Gardener.”
- When logged in, currently the “sign-in” tab remains on the screen. Change to “sign-out.” By the time of the meeting, Gayle had made this change at no charge.

The Board discussed renaming and reorganizing the “Documents” section to separate MG of BC and RMGANJ documents and adding a section for RMGANJ delegate responsibilities and RMGANJ bylaws. Joseph believed it would be helpful to be able to access what the state does. Also, the Rutgers’ bylaws are not posted. Karen Pennell concurred that currently there is no easy way to access certain RMGANJ information on the Rutgers University website. Cost: \$200. Finally, under the MG of BC section, there is one file containing officers and committee chairs, past presidents, and past award winners/service pin recipients. It was proposed to recategorize them into separate files. Karen Pennell mentioned that since we have no archivist, this would serve as a way to store current as well as historical information about the organization which would be easily accessible to membership. Cost: \$100.

***Motion:** Motion made by Joseph to pay up to \$500 to add the RMGANJ information/changes to the website and to create files for the current officers and committee chairs; past officers and committee chairs; historical files, and award winners and service pin recipients. Arnie seconded the motion. APPROVED.

Rutgers, Bergen County guidelines for in-person activities – updates for 2022.

Melody reported that Bergen County will resume allowing meetings to take place in the meeting room on the first floor at One Bergen County Plaza, however, we are still waiting for specific guidelines, ie, maximum number of people, mask wearing, social distancing, etc. January’s meeting will be held on Zoom.

New Business

Year-end committee reports – 2021

Melody requested all Committee Chairs send in their year-end reports.

Budget for 2022

The Holiday Open House at Skylands was discussed, specifically the \$500 line item budgeted for annual decorations. It was suggested that in the spring, the Holiday House Committee come to the Board with their proposal for us to evaluate, and we would allocate money as we deemed appropriate. It was also suggested that the Holiday House Committee update the Board on a quarterly basis on what the money the MG of BC contributes is specifically being spent on. Topic tabled for further discussion at the next meeting.

Center for Food Action donation request

***Motion:** Suzanne motioned that we make a \$250 donation to the Center for Food Action. Arnie seconded the motion, APPROVED.

Dues payment options

Theresa will update the Membership form and provide information on where the form and dues should be mailed to. The forms and checks will be sent to Pat Vellas' home address. Pat will deposit the checks and forward the Membership forms to Theresa.

Pat asked that everyone please review the 2022 budget and let her know of any changes.

Melody excused herself from the meeting and Suzanne took over.

Suzanne read Autumn's report, which as of Sunday, 11/14, 1916.13 hours have been reported using the Better Impact system by 38 MG of BC. Suzanne stated Autumn is expressing concern that members were not recording their volunteer hours in Better Impact, and what can be done about it.

The recording of volunteer hours and timely submission of membership dues would be announced and promoted at tonight's general membership meeting.

***Motion to adjourn** made by Donna. Motion was seconded by Joseph. Meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM.

** Note: Although Committee reports were not presented at the Board meeting, the following report was submitted from the Rutgers Cooperative Extension. Please review.

RCE Report to MG Association Board Meeting 11/16/21

By Joel Flagler

1. The North Jersey Ornamental Horticulture conference is all set and we have rec'd accreditation from NJDEP. There will also be ISA points for tree professionals and Pro-fact points for Turf managers applying fertilizer. MG's are more than welcome for any of the 3 days (1/10,11,12). It is online from 10 am-12 noon. Registration materials will be e-mailed out soon. Join us for Landscape Day (1/12) at the very least, with great talks by Rich Buckley and Steve Bross.
2. The spotted lanternfly has caused a lot of concern and some damage in 2021 and everyone wonders what it will be like in 2022. It seems grape growers/vineyards took the biggest hit. Tree fruit and vegetable growers are hoping they are not next. The good news is that Audubon reports over 12 native birds were observed feasting on the new bounty of lanternflies. That is good news in hopes of good predator-prey relations. Maybe just some good IPM will be needed to manage the new pest. It loves tree-of-heaven (Ailanthus) so lots of eggs were laid in lots of places on these trees--all over the state and beyond.

3. The new MG class will start in January and we are excited to welcome the new interns to the Bergen RMG family. It is our hope there will be lots of outdoor plantings this coming April and May in our county parks--just what we need for getting those MG hours completed. We will keep you posted on that.
4. Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving Holiday to All. Thank you for all you do for Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the County of Bergen.