

**Master Gardener Association of Bergen County
Board Meeting Minutes – May 16, 2023**

Present: Hosting – Melody Corcoran, Karen Riede, Suzanne Danzig, Janet Schulz, Theresa Schneider, Miriam Taub, Arnie Friedman, Herb Arbeiter, Elizabeth Gil, Joseph Cooper, Donna Faustini, Keith Mazanec

Absent: Pat Vellas, Martha Carlucci

The meeting was called to order by President Corcoran at 5:37 PM.

Officer Reports:

President – Melody Corcoran

The breakfast for the 2023 MG class was held this morning. Six board members and about 30 interns attended. The board members spoke about their positions and duties and about the importance of the Master Gardeners to Bergen County and in educating the public. Joseph, Suzanne and Liz spoke about their respective volunteer sites – McFaul, Washington Spring and the Hermitage. There was more than enough food so some of the leftovers were brought back for tonight’s refreshment table.

I contacted Sue Sheridan about the Holiday Open House again. Here is her response: “The upshot of our recent HOH meeting was that it’s too early to have an idea of a budget. We are still very much in our planning stage; members have put forth various ideas, but haven’t looked into how to execute those ideas, nor nail down a cost. It’s just too early to knuckle down and finalize. At our meeting in September, 2022 with the board, it was requested that we have a budget for this September’s board meeting. We will definitely have our final number by then. Thanks for your understanding.”

The logos that were forwarded to everyone are a starting point for a possible MG of BC logo, which we could use in place of an official Rutgers logo. We will be discussing them tonight.

Vice President – Elizabeth Gil

No report.

Treasurer – Pat Vellas

The Treasurer’s Report was presented by Melody:

For month ending April 30, 2023:

Opening Balance as of: March 31, 2023	\$ 16,141.03
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Treasurer’s Report cont...

Income:	Membership fees	\$	100.00
	Member donation	\$	25.00
	Speaker donation	\$	
	Buck Garden	\$	90.00

Total Income:	\$	215.00
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Expenses:	Mary Jasch-Speaker fee	\$	(125.00)
	Buck Garden -Docent fee	\$	(90.00)
	Donna Faustini-Screen	\$	(79.99)
	Herb Arbeiter-Hospitality	\$	(28.28)

Total Expenses:	\$	(323.27)
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Closing Balance as of April 30, 2023	\$	16,032.76
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Total Outstanding Checks:	John Beirne-Speaker fee	\$	(250.00)
	Buck Garden -Docent fee	\$	(90.00)
	Herb Arbeiter-Hospitality	\$	(28.28)

Bank Statement Balance as of April 30, 2023	\$	16,401.04
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***Motion:** Suzanne motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Report and Miriam seconded the motion. All in attendance voted “Yes.” - APPROVED.

Recording Secretary – Keith Mazanec

Keith stated that the final copy of the April 18, 2023 Board Meeting minutes had been sent out to all Board Members for review, and that if there were no changes or questions, proposed that a motion be made to approve them.

***Motion:** Arnie motioned to approve the April 2023 meeting minutes; Herb seconded the motion. All in attendance voted “Yes.” APPROVED.

Corresponding Secretary – Miriam Taub

Miriam reported the May edition of the Potting Shed was sent out as well as a mid-month email.

Old Business:

Summer picnic – numbers and pin distribution?

As of now, there have been 13 responses from those planning to attend the picnic on June 13. Melody asked if we should consider distributing the service pins at the picnic. Karen has the pins for the years 2020, 2021, and 2022. After a discussion, it was decided that the service pins would be distributed in September. Miriam to put an announcement in the Potting Shed stating same.

Outreach volunteer hours - Can MG of BC schedule and designate as volunteer hours various single work events at non-MG volunteer sites?

Arnie reported he is still is awaiting a response from Joel on this issue.

Computer, equipment manager

Arnie stated that he believed the purchase of a new computer was a good idea. There was further discussion on the merits of purchasing a new computer, software and pricing. Prices discussed ranged from several hundred to several thousand dollars. It was decided that this would be tabled until the September meeting, and Arnie would research various computers, software and prices and report back to the board.

Promotional ads-ad hoc committee

Liz shared various samples of promotional ads designed to be conversation starters to promote the MG of BC. These included samples of different logos for consideration. There were discussions on where we could place/post the ads, how we can use them to advertise volunteer events, and the design of the logo itself. Joseph proposed the logo should contain three elements; 1) the name of the organization 2) a flower, plant or some other botanical reference and 3) have an open circle around the design. Everyone agreed the design should be simple and uncluttered. Liz will make modifications to the design everyone liked the best, send it out to the board members, and we will vote on-line.

T-shirts, MG logo

Karen stated that for the fair in September, we will have embroidered, cotton T-shirts. (See above for discussion on logo.)

Committee Reports

Community outreach liaison – Arnie Friedman

Nothing further to report.

Hospitality – Martha Carlucci (absent)

No report.

Membership – Theresa Schneider

To date we have 124 dues-paying members for calendar year 2023. We have 85 members on Better Impact. Four of our dues-paying members live out of state

Newsletter – Miriam Taub

Miriam reported that at this morning's breakfast, one person expressed an interest in editing for the newsletter. Miriam told her the Potting Shed needs writers only.

Janet Schulz – There is not much going on currently with the garden clubs. A “tea” is planned for Tuesday, June 13. Trips and Tours: Ten people attended a trip to Buck Garden. Another trip is planned for Friday, June 16 at 10:30 AM to Reeves-Reed Arboretum.

Programs – Donna Faustini

Our speaker tonight is Michael Hagen of NYBG. He will be discussing native plants in small spaces. There are two speakers we're considering for our Sept. 19 meeting; Either Bruce Crawford or Mark Zukovich.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension liaison – Karen Riede

Karen presented Joel's report:

RCE Report to MG Association Board Meeting 5/16/23

Joel Flagler

1. Our office has received notices of these job openings within RCE in other counties:

🔗 <https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/Home/Components/JobPosts/Job/1627/2372>

Environmental Educator I, a county position within RCE of Somerset County

🔗 <https://jobs.rutgers.edu/postings/201148> Program Associate II Passaic County, RCE

2. First hatching of spotted lantern fly have been confirmed all over, and we expect people to start noticing. The best feature for positive ID are the spots, which you can see with a hand lens on the dark and unusual instars.

3. The North Jersey Ornamental Horticulture Symposium will have its 63rd annual conference during the week of Jan. 8, 2024. The location will be the lovely County College of Morris (CCM). The program chairs will be Madeline Flahive Dinardo for Turf Day, Jean Epiphan for Tree Day, and Joel F. for Landscape Day. MG's are encouraged to attend Landscape Day as the speakers will be of great interest for our MG community. This conference is the oldest, continually offered program within Rutgers Cooperative Extension. Joel has been on the team since 1987—36 years ago.

RCE Report cont...

The conference is highly rated in participant evaluations and many hundreds of landscape and turf professionals have adopted improved practices like IPM monitoring, use of beneficials, soil testing and more as they rely less and less on chemicals. Please plan on joining us. I will share details on registration as soon as we have them.

4. On Sat., May 13 the Yale Alumni Association provided a Day of Service at Skylands—our state botanical garden. MG’s from Passaic County worked with the Yale alums and the task was a garlic mustard harvest. They worked hard and filled many large bags with the weed. I’m pretty sure some still remains. As a Yale alum I was happy to welcome the group and talk up the RMG’s. The Skylands Association President Ken Merz was the host and organized work teams. I led a tour of the formal gardens and offered some historical perspective for the participants after the work detail. Nearly all were there for the first time. Imagine that!

Karen thanked everyone who showed up for this morning’s breakfast.

RMGANJ report – Herb Arbeiter

May 11, 2023 – RMGANJ Report:

Master Gardener Coordinator, Nick Polanin:

The Fall Conference

The title of the Fall Conference is “Transforming Your Home – Inside and Out.”

Nick Polanin and Nick Hendershot are still trying to reach Nicki Graf for a tour of the Rutgers green house and possible plant sale.

The meeting will be in person with a hybrid option.

Nick Hendershot:

Discussion on whether to start having in-person monthly meetings with a hybrid option.

NOTE: Had to leave meeting early; additional meeting notes will on the RMGANJ monthly minutes.

Site coordinator liaison – Liz Gil

No report.

Volunteer Records – Suzanne Danzig

An additional 565 hours have been recorded since my April report. An additional 427 Outreach hours, 53 Admin hours, 26 Special Projects hours, 5 Teaching hours and 55 additional CE hours. Garretson Forge and Farm had another busy month with a total of 105 hours. A total of 54 entered hours last month.

A comparison of YTD hours and number of volunteers from last year to this year: 2023 YTD: 72 volunteers recorded 2,070 hours. 2022 same period: 83 volunteers recorded 2,095 hours, a difference of 11 volunteers and 25 hours.

Website – Joseph Cooper

There has been no change since last month.

New Business

Nominating Committee-President and Vice President

Melody stated that we need to form a nominating committee consisting of three people for the purpose of electing a president and vice president. The following agreed to serve: Theresa Schneider, Joseph Cooper and Suzanne Danzig.

Misc.

Miriam suggested that we hold a zoom board meeting in August.

Ad hoc committee for goals: A committee of Liz, Arnie and Miriam will be looking at goals and objectives for the MG of BC. Liz will coordinate and report back to the board during the August Zoom meeting.

Melody continues to work on recruiting a new hospitality chairperson.

Karen reminded everyone that this year's Fall Festival has been moved from Van Saun to Overpeck Park.

Adjournment

***Motion:** A motion was made by Joseph to adjourn the meeting. Arnie seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.