

**Master Gardener Association of Bergen County
Board Meeting Minutes – June 18, 2024
Via Zoom**

President Schneider called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

Present: Hosting – Theresa Schneider, Jean Friedman, Keith Mazanec, Miriam Taub, Chris Kozar, Janet Stofkoper, Donna Dorgan, Maria Bushman, Karen Riede, Arnie Friedman, Joseph Cooper

Absent: Lisa Yoler, Suzanne Danzig, Herb Arbeiter, Cesar Coy

President Schneider announced the Recording Secretary had distributed the May, 2024 minutes electronically on June 16. She inquired if there was any discussion regarding the minutes. Since there were no corrections, the minutes were approved.

Officer Reports:

President – Theresa Schneider

Theresa stated that we have identified an alternate delegate to the RMGANJ; Mark Oliff. In addition, she and Arnie have spoken with insurance carriers regarding D & O insurance.

Vice President – Lisa Yoler (absent)

No report given.

Treasurer – Jean Friedman

The Treasurer's report was presented and filed for May, 2024; 2023 annual report remains pending. Chris will forward her receipts for hospitality to Jean for processing.

Recording Secretary – Keith Mazanec

No additional report given.

Corresponding Secretary – Miriam Taub

Sent out a sympathy card to Joel re: the passing of his mother-in-law.

Committee Reports:

Community outreach liaison – Arnie Friedman (absent)

Arnie asked Miriam to post in the Potting Shed a list of open, sub-committee positions. The Speakers Bureau is still getting requests for talks. Janet Schulz will no longer be on the Speakers Bureau.

Publicity Chair - Maria Bushman

Maria reported there have been 69 posts on Facebook and 48 posts on Instagram.

Hospitality – Chris Kozar

The MG of BC annual picnic is scheduled for Wednesday, June 26 from 12 pm until 2 pm, at Van Saun County Park, Pavilion I. To date, 23 MGs have RSVP'd. Sandwiches should cost about \$250. There was some discussion as to whether to have the picnic based on the low number of responses.

Motion: Arnie motioned that we should move forward with the picnic. Motion passed.

Membership – Janet Stofkoper

Janet reported we have eight new paid members, bringing total paid membership to 108.

Newsletter – Miriam Taub

Sent out two Potting Sheds; sent an email about the NJBG documentary being aired on NJ Public Television. Will send out a reminder about the picnic.

We have had three ad hoc committee meetings regarding changes to our website, and are making progress.

Programs – Donna Dorgan

No report.

Site coordinator liaison – vacant

No report given.

Volunteer Records – Suzanne Danzig (absent)

RMGANJ report – Herb Arbeiter (absent)

In Herb's absence, Theresa reported the following:

- Work on the facts sheets is moving forward.
- The fall conference will be an awards ceremony.
- RMGANJ is updating it's policies and procedures manual. These policies will pertain to all 15 counties who fall under Rutgers.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension liaison – Karen Riede

No report from Joel for this month. The CDC has issued Bird Flu recommendations.

Class Liaison – Cesar Coy (absent)

No report given.

Website – Joseph Cooper

No additional information to report, other than what Miriam previously reported on.

Unfinished Business

2024 Budget

Jean reported that expenses would not be significantly different than those in 2023 except for the addition of D & O insurance. The board went through all the line items in the budget and made changes where appropriate.

Motion: Arnie motioned that the budget for new signage be reduced to \$100. Joseph seconded the motion. APPROVED.

Motion: Arnie motioned that the board move to accept the 2024 budget. Joseph seconded the motion. APPROVED.

Director and Officers Insurance

Arnie had spoken with two insurance carriers to get quotes for D & O insurance; Phoenix Insurance and Philadelphia Insurance Co. Currently, if someone were to sue the Board of Directors for someone making a slanderous or inappropriate remark, we could have exposure. A \$1 million policy with a \$5,000 deductible would run about \$730 annually. A \$1,000 deductible would raise the premium to \$805. As we have no employees, this liability coverage would cover Board and Committee members and their spouses.

Theresa proposed that we move forward with this and apply for the minimum coverage.

Joseph will be abstaining from voting.

Motion: Arnie motioned that we accept the D & O policy as is with a \$5,000 deductible for one year at a cost of \$735.66. Keith seconded the motion. No opposed with two abstentions. APPROVED.

Motion: Arnie motioned to adjourn the business portion of the meeting and for those who are able to remain to talk about remaining discussion items. Keith seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.