

# Master Gardeners of Bergen County

## Board Meeting Minutes – April 15, 2025

Meeting Held Via Zoom

President Theresa Schneider called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

Roll Call

Officers present:

- President – Theresa Schneider
- Vice President – Lisa Yoler
- Recording Secretary – Marylou Moravec
- Corresponding Secretary – Maria Bushman
- Treasurer – Jean Friedman

Committee Chairs present:

- Community Outreach Liaison – Arnie Friedman
- Hospitality – Chris Kozar
- Membership – Dineen Policano
- Newsletter – Miriam Taub
- Programs – Lisa Yoler and Maria Bushman (co-chairs)
- Site Coordinator Liaison – Wendy Sowa-Maldarelli
- Website – Joseph Cooper and Miriam Taub (co-chairs)

Committee Chairs absent:

- Volunteer Records – Suzanne Danzig
- Trips and Tours - Suzy Basu

Liaison to Board – Absent

- Cesar Coy – MG Class Liaison (2024)

Approval of Minutes

- February 2025 board meeting minutes were approved.
- March 2025 board meeting minutes were approved.

Officer Reports

- President – Theresa Schneider – written report to be issued.

Theresa Schneider worked the MG Helpline and was favorably impressed with the organization completed by Karen Reide. There is a workbook for intake

questions and hours worked on the Helpline. She did note the computer was too slow. She would like to have two individuals work on the Helpline as this would allow plenty of time to do research.. There was not much activity while she was manning the Helpline. She also noted how well the fact sheets were organized. This will be beneficial to the Speakers Bureau.

- Vice President – Lisa Yoler – no report
- Treasurer – Jean Friedman

\$160 in membership dues came in this month.

\$650 in donations were received in April.

The checkbook balance is \$16,459.60.

Jean also noted that a request for a receipt was received for a donation. Maria Bushman will send a letter to thank this individual for their donation.

- Recording Secretary – Marylou Moravec – no report
- Corresponding Secretary – Maria Bushman – no report

#### Standing Committee Reports

- Community Outreach – Arnie Friedman
  - Subcommittees
    - Speakers Bureau Chair– Arnie Friedman
- Hospitality – Chris Kozar

Arnie noted we do not charge a fee for a speaker from the Speakers Bureau. There will be no receipts issued for a donation. A thank-you note will be sent to donors.

- Publicity Chair – Maria Bushman – no report
- Fall Festival Chair – *Vacant*
- One Day Events Chair – Jeff Chan
- Community/School Gardens Chair – *Vacant*

There are three events upcoming.

The hospitality for the event at Bergen Community College on April 30 is all set.

- Membership – Dineen Policano – report submitted
  - Newsletter – Miriam Taub
  - Programs – Lisa Yoler and Maria Bushman (co-chairs)
- Two additional members paid dues bringing the total to 102 members paid.
- Potting Sheds have been distributed.
- Garden club liaison subcommittee – *Vacant*
- The speaker for the May 20 meeting will be Ted Szczawinski speaking on plant propagation.

- Trips and Tours subcommittee – Suzy Basu – absent
- Site Coordinator Liaison – Wendy Sowa-Maldarelli  
Wendy reported that she now knows the site coordinators better.
- Volunteer Records – Suzanne Danzig – absent
- Website – Joseph Cooper and Miriam Taub (co-chairs)  
Minor changes to the website were reported.  
Newsletters have been added to the website.  
Theresa Schneider suggested adding an “accolades” section to the website. This is something to think about. Another option is to put accolades on social media (doesn’t complicate the website) or perhaps add to the Potting Shed.  
Another suggestion was to issue certificates of appreciation and pins for those working hard.
- Liaison Reports
  - Rutgers Cooperative Extension Liaison – *Vacant*
  - MG Class Liaison (2024) – Cesar Coy – Absent  
It was suggested that request be sent to class of 2024 for their assistance on upcoming events.
- Unfinished Business – None
- New Business
  - Motion was adopted to spend \$45 on the Rutherford Tree Fest in support of educational materials, activity supplies, and document protectors for materials.  
Volunteer hours are available for this event.
  - What other educational materials can we have to support our mission of educating the public? Need some good ideas to facilitate talks. Something practical that won’t be tossed away. One suggestion was the use of iPads with fact sheets. Theresa will test this concept. Jeff Chan mentioned he has file boxes of fact sheets.
- Discussion
  - Feedback from April 1 meeting with Site Coordinators – Lisa Yoler  
Site coordinators lack information. They asked for the following: Signage/flags, fact sheets, magnets, and materials and information to answer questions.
  - Executive Board “boot camp” training – When to schedule.  
Continued discussion as to whether we are Rutgers Master Gardeners or Bergen County Master Gardeners. Since we are a non-profit 501(c)(3) we cannot call ourselves Rutgers Master Gardeners. We have to decide should we stay a 501(c)(3) or move to Rutgers Master Gardeners. We have been advised by Ruth Carll to stay the course for now. We need to determine the pros and cons of staying a non-profit or abandoning our

non-profit status. We currently do not have enough information to determine which course of action to pursue. The "boot camp" zoom meeting would serve to review best practices related to being a non-profit organization.

- Support of the 2025 Fall Harvest Festival, September 26-28, 2025 at Overpeck County Park – how should we approach, for example, ad hoc committees?
- Advisory Board to assist Alyssa Glynn and Ruth Carll in supporting Bergen County Master Gardener activities and continuing education.
- MG of BC work groups to tackle:
  - Volunteer site communications – this work group is under way. Wendy noted there is a need for an ad hoc committee. Each site would need to determine what supplies are needed.
  - Process and policy items (for example, online voting: who approves and where do we archive minutes from general membership meetings).
  - Identifying and obtaining materials to support educational opportunities/services at our volunteer sites.
- Announcements  
Miriam Taub noted there is an open house at the NJBG Saturday, April 19.
- Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Minutes prepared by: Marylou Moravec