## Hancock County Master Gardeners

## Meeting Minutes

## February 24, 2021

**Opening**

The meeting was called to order by President Darlene Trusty at 6:02 PM. There were attendees both in person and on Zoom.

**Extension Update**

Lais McCartney, ANR Educator, let us know that there will be nine people in the Master Gardener class beginning in March. She asked for volunteers to discuss the activities for the County Connection meetings as several committees were not yet represented; **please email her if you’d like to present.** Lais thanked everyone for stepping up and leading, and reminded committee chairs to include other committee members when opportunities arise, as it helps to develop their leadership skills as well. She also reminded us to come to her with questions; John Orick, our state coordinator, is very busy and dealing with the whole state.

**Approvals**

Darlene asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the previous meeting. There was one correction – the starting time of the meeting – and a motion was made to accept the minutes as corrected was made by Jerry LeCount, seconded by Teresa Bowlby, and approved.

The Treasurer’s report was presented by Greg Arthur. The current balance is $5,700.73, with $100.00 cash on hand, and $5,600.73in the bank. Thirty-six members have paid Association dues, which are due on or before the next meeting.

**Old Business**

Greg gave us a brief history of the new tablet discussions. He’s been looking at prices, commented that prices move around quite a bit, and proposed approval of allowing an expense not-to-exceed $600. Teresa moved to allow the purchase of a device for no more than $600, and Jerry seconded. Motion was approved.

Mike Yancey let us know that the mentor list has been updated to include the newest interns. **If anyone would like to volunteer to be a mentor, please contact Mike.** The new members were also listed.

Darlene reminded everyone to complete the Annual Agreement by March 1st. She also asked that we contact Brenda Hayes to get any of the seed packets that were donated by the East Washington Wal-Mart. We plan to pass out the seeds at the 4-H Fair.

**New Business**

Next Darlene discussed the proposed budget that was sent out. She stated that each committee was allotted a certain amount, and if you go over that amount you must get approval. Greg explained the budget, and clarified that if the committee chairs expect expenditure overages they must bring it up at the officer’s meeting. He summarized with the amount that we should expect at the end of 2021: just over $4000. This amount is required as the Association’s expenses are frontloaded. Greg asked for questions and mentioned that a mid-year report would be issued. Teresa moved to accept the budget as written and Lee Rose-Alexander seconded. The motion passed, and votes were cast by chat by the attendees joining via zoom.

**Announcements:**

Darlene let us know that a new committee has been formed, named the Pennsy Trails & Schramm Nature Preserve committee. Work updates were sent out, and Mary Ann Wietbrock gave a brief summary of an upcoming work day on April 10th, as well as future plans.

Darlene announced that the Flower and Patio Show has been canceled and encouraged people to sign up for committees. Elaine announced a Demonstration Gardens Committee meeting for March 10th at 7:00 PM. Sign up for the committee if you’re interested in helping.

The Hancock County Master Gardener website has been updated, as well as a newsletter coming out soon.

Teresa was contacted by two people about MGs presenting information on gardening. One was for the Boy Scouts in late March; Jerry volunteered to present. The second was for the Extension Homemakers club Hearts and Homes, who would like a presenter for their March 2nd meeting at 7:00 PM at the Extension Office. **If you would like to present, please let Teresa know.**

Darlene encouraged everyone to use the “People to Know” document to communicate with chairpersons. **Teresa will update the document and send it out.**

**Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn the business meeting was made by Jerry and seconded by Teresa at 6:24 PM. The next meeting will be held on March 24th at 6:00 PM at the Extension Office and via Zoom.

**Break**

There was a short break while members logged out of the business portion of the meeting and logged into the educational portion.

**Education**

Lais introducedthe first speaker, Joe Whitfield, Hancock County Master Gardener and Thornwood caretaker and arborist, discussed the big three invasive species that he deals with: Multiflora rose, bush honeysuckle (red berries), and garlic mustard. Vicki Snarr, Hancock County Master Gardener Education Committee Chairperson, introduced Mary Welz, Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management regional specialist, who discussed the impact and identification of invasive plants and the importance of native plants.

**Minutes prepared by:**

Teresa Bowlby, Secretary