## Hancock County Extension Master Gardeners

## Meeting Minutes

## January 23, 2020

**Opening**

The meeting was called to order by President Jerry LeCount at 6:32 PM. The meeting took place at the Purdue Hancock County Extension Office in Greenfield, Indiana.

**Education**

Jerry introduced Cathy Logan, of Harvest Land Co-Op, and Steve Houghton, of Cisco Seeds in Indianapolis. Steve presented information on turf grass types, seeding, overseeding, and maintaining established turfs, as well as the various products available from his company.

**Break**

Refreshments were provided by the officers.

**Announcements**

Jerry opened the business portion of the meetingon a sad note.Member Jerry Jones passed away in December, and flowers were sent on behalf of the Hancock County Master Gardeners.

Jerry reminded the group that the $20 dues are to be submitted to Greg by February 27, 2020. Additionally, the annual agreement with Purdue, called EMG-2, is required to be completed by March 1, 2020. At the next meeting, the Media Committee will demonstrate how to complete this form, as well as how to report hours on the Purdue website. Barbara Johnson of the Media committee confirmed that there will be a notice on the MG website, beginning about February 1, 2020, that the application must be completed, and that instructions will be included. Tim Harris of the Media Committee also reported that there will be several laptops out at the next meeting for people to use to allow everyone to get their agreement completed by the deadline. Jerry thanked the Media Team for their work.

We received a request from Lais McCartney for 100 packets of seed to attach to an advertisement for Master Gardeners, which the Extension Homemakers will hand out at the Spring Market on April 4, 2020. Jerry approved the request.

Jerry presented Master Gardener Awards to Lynn Meier and Artis Kingston and an Advanced Master Gardener Award to Teresa Bowlby. Congratulations!!

The officers’ goal this year is to keep everyone interested and from getting burned out. Jerry encouraged folks to choose their projects carefully and don’t over-extend. He also sent the termination letter to Cross Creative, effective February 29, 2020.

At the February meeting, Jerry would like the permanent Committee chairs to briefly discuss what each committee does. This doesn’t include Project Teams – the more casual, transient teams. The teams should just provide a summary of their accomplishments at the meetings. Committee chairs should complete project request forms and turn them into Darlene, as well as complete a Committee Chairman guide and a projected budget.

Jerry asked for a Refreshment Committee chair volunteer, and stated that the chair would get one hour of volunteer time for arranging refreshments every month, and for the members who bring refreshments that month, they get one volunteer hour as well. Artis volunteered to be the chair.

The by-laws will be updated to match some of the requirements that Purdue has put in place. The officers will get a draft together and present the changes at an upcoming meeting.

**Approvals**

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Paul Norton, seconded by Barbara, and approved.

The Treasurer’s report was presented by Greg Arthur. The 2019 year-end balance was $2520.12. The 2019 year-end audit has been conducted by Jane Pollock; no issues were found. The current balance is $2683.74, with $138.97 cash on hand, $2544.77 in the bank, and January expenses of $35.35 for the monthly media charge. As of January 22nd, 5 members had paid their 2020 annual dues, but many paid at the meeting.

**New Business**

Paul told us about a project that the Regreening Greenfield group is doing to plant vincas in 42 sidewalk plots around downtown Greenfield. Each plot has a “donated by” sign. He asked for volunteers to plant and passed around a signup sheet. Jerry suggested that we could advertise our group by purchasing signs for $34 each. Vicki Snarr moved to purchase 2 plots, Lynn seconded the motion, and it carried.

Teresa reported that the Greenfield FFA will not be able to supply annuals for our plant sale this year, so the committee has met and enlisted the services of the Hope Center to provide plants. Elaine Whitfield has been in contact with them, providing what plants and how much we’d like. They will begin sticking plants in early February and have offered to host our March meeting so we can see the progress. Vicki suggested that we schedule a tour of the Hope Center, separate from our regular meeting, to see the progress instead, and there was general consensus. Brian at the Hope Center reminded us that we would be responsible for getting the plants to the fairgrounds, and Lynn volunteered the use of her horse trailer. Teresa confirmed with Doug Maxwell that the show arena is reserved for the dates of May 1 and 2, 2020, and that wifi will be available with a password. She asked Greg to find a device to use so that we can accept credit cards. There was discussion around extending credit for donating a certain number of plants to the sale, but Teresa asked that we just give it some thought. There was also discussion about have thriller/spiller/filler containers on display at the Plant Sale, and it was suggested that Rita Miller be available to help customers arrange their pots with our plants. We also discussed other methods of showing customers how to fill the containers. The next Plant Sale Committee meeting was set for February 6, 2020, at 5:30 PM at the Extension Office.

Joe Whitfield spoke for his wife, Elaine, who was unable to attend. She’d like a list of people who would like to help plant at the Hope Center. A background check is not required to work in the greenhouse. Joe also said that we are invited to have a booth at the Community Earth Day 50th Anniversary Celebration at the Sugar Creek Township Park on April 18, 2020 from 1-4 PM. An email is forthcoming, but no decision was reached as to whether we would have a booth at the event.

The Hancock County Master Gardeners have been selected to fill the 10 AM to 3 PM slot on Saturday, March 14, 2020 for the Indiana Flower and Patio Show. That’s 8 volunteers at 2.5 hours each, and he’ll pair experienced with inexperienced people. Bob Degitz is going to send out an email and asks that we reply directly to him.

Vicki shared with us the date of the first Green Thumb Program of the year – April 8th at the Main Branch of the Hancock County Public Library. She will be obtaining the speaker. She set a date of Wednesday, January 29, 2020 for the first Green Thumb Committee meeting, at 4:00 PM at the Extension Office. She also named and thanked the people who have volunteered to be part of the Speaker’s Bureau, and asked that anytime we present something, we let her know. Bruce Matter of the Media Committee also asked for any presentations that we would like to be included on the website. He will be sending out an email reminder.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Joe, seconded by Paul, at 9:13 PM. The next meeting will be held on February 27, 2020 at 6:30 PM at the Extension Office.

**Minutes prepared by:**

Teresa Bowlby, Secretary