## Hancock County Master Gardeners

## Meeting Minutes

## January 27, 2021

**Opening**

The meeting was called to order by President Darlene Trusty at 6:00 PM. There were attendees both in person and via Zoom.

**Extension Update**

Lais McCartney, ANR Educator, let us know that there will be another Master Gardener class beginning March 3rd. Class will be held from 1:30-3:30 PM on Wednesdays, and the County Connection meetings will be held on Thursdays beginning at 1:30 PM. Lais asked for our help with the County Connection like last year; **we should contact her if we’d like to present.** We need to complete the Annual Agreement by March 1st, and will be notified online when available. Instructions for completing the agreement are available on the website under the Members Only section.

**Approvals**

Darlene asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the November meeting. Being none, a motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Greg Arthur, seconded by Teresa Bowlby, and approved.

The Treasurer’s report was presented by Greg. The current balance is $5,804.13, with $100.00 cash on hand, and $5,704.13in the bank. An annual audit was conducted by Jane Pollock and no issues were found. Just shy of 30 people have paid their dues already.

**Old Business**

Darlene stated that Committee reports will now be sent to Teresa, who will attach to the agenda. She hopes to reduce the amount of time the meeting takes doing it this way, while still allowing everyone to be updated on committee activities.

Darlene asked if there was any discussion or clarification needed in order to vote on the by-law amendments. A vote was conducted, with those physically present voting verbally and those on Zoom voting by commenting in the chat, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. The by-law amendments passed.

We discussed the issue of whether to plant seeds for the MG booth at the 4-H fair. Joe and Elaine Whitfield suggested that we have a seed giveaway and transplant any volunteer Black-eyed Susans around the Extension Gardens into pots to give away as well. Joe asked for a couple of volunteers to help at the booth. **Send Joe an email if you’re interested in helping out.**

The status of the new tablet was discussed next. Greg stated that he’s still shopping, and that the tablet should be able to accept credit cards. Typically the president keeps the tablet unless it is needed for an event. **Greg will get some comparative numbers put together to discuss at the next meeting.**

Darlene discussed the new meeting format with the group. **If you have a new idea, attend the Officer’s meeting on the second Wednesday of the month at 5:30 PM.** It will be discussed to see it should be brought to the general meeting.

Awards Committee Chair Lynn Meier announced the following recipients:

Emily Snider – Master Gardener

Tim Harris and Larry Robertson – Advanced Master Gardener

Teresa Bowlby, Rita Miller, and Connie Dickinson – Bronze Master Gardener

Elaine Whitfield – Gold Master Gardener

Lynn requested that these **individuals pick up their certificate and badge at the Extension Office.** Congratulations!

**New Business**

Darlene asked that everyone complete the survey that they should have received from John Orick. Teresa mentioned that the Plant Sale is scheduled for April 30th -May 1st at the fairgrounds. Lee Rose-Alexander announced that a new committee, called Physician’s Garden has been formed to meet a request from a local physician to have a private garden around the water tower behind the hospital. The physician plans to encourage their patients to grow and pick vegetables. **If interested in helping, please contact Lee or Lais.** Darlene reminded committee chairs about submitting Project Request Forms.

Vicki Snarr, Master Gardener Education Committee Chair, announced the educational series for 2021, titled *Your Homegrown Nature Preserve*. It’s about controlling invasives, welcoming good species of plants and animals into your yard, and how your yard and garden affects woodlands and other environments beyond. Virtual presentations are planned, as well as two field trips to Thornwood Preserve.

Darlene asked folks **to contact her with comments or suggestions regarding the new meeting format**. Also, with this hybrid meeting format, you will be required to register for the meeting so that we can maintain the appropriate number of people in the conference room.

If you are interested in signing up for any committees (since we don’t have the physical sign-up sheets anymore), please **contact the committee chair**. Volunteering on a committee helps you get your hours in.

**Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn the business meeting was made by Teresa and seconded by Greg at approximately 6:30 PM. The next meeting will be held on February 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**

Vicki Snarr introduced Kirsten Carlson, a local university educator, who presented *Supporting Monarchs in a Changing World*.

**Minutes prepared by:**

Teresa Bowlby, Secretary