## Hancock County Extension Master Gardeners

## Meeting Minutes

## June 25, 2020

**Opening**

The meeting was called to order by President Jerry LeCount at 6:03 PM. The meeting took place via Zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions.

**Education**

Jerry introduced Vicki Snarr, Hancock County Advanced Master Gardener Education Committee Chair. She presented information on powdery mildew via an educational program on the Purdue website titled *Powdery Mildew: Biology & Management in the Garden* (From Oregon State University Extension, April 16, 2018).

**Break**

Jerry announced a short comfort break of approximately 10 minutes.

**Approvals**

President Jerry LeCount opened the business portion of the meetingby asking if there were any questions on the minutes. A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Teresa Bowlby, seconded by Jerry, and approved.

The Treasurer’s report was presented by Greg Arthur. The current balance is $2856.46, with $138.97 cash on hand, and $2717.49 in the bank. Greg reported that the deposit for the 4-H fair has not been returned and will probably be carried over to next year’s booth space, which Teresa confirmed is correct.

**Old Business**

Elaine Whitfield gave an update on the 2020 Daylily Sale. The date has been set for 18 Jul 2020. The time and place are to be determined. Lais is checking with Earl Smith of the Farmer’s Market to see whether they plan to use the Extension grounds for the Farmer’s Market that Saturday, or the fairgrounds. If they use the fairgrounds, we’ll have the Daylily Sale in the morning. If they use the Extension grounds, the sale will be in the afternoon. Elaine asked that everyone keep an eye on their email for updates and signup options. Vicki commented on the wonderful condition of the Daylily Gardens.

Rosemary Hill reported on the New Castle Library Moon Garden presentation on 22 June 2020, which was a big success. Sixteen people registered for virtual meeting, and 7-8 people were in physical attendance. There will be another presentation on Monday, 27 July 2020, led by Darlene Trusty. Jerry commented on the graciousness of the New Castle Seed Library, and then there was some general discussion on planting seeds, transplanting, and propagation of native flowers, particularly for the Pennsy Trail. Jerry volunteered to donate some rose mallow and marigold seeds to the project.

Bruce Matter reported on behalf of the Media Committee. The team just published the newsletter, and plan to work on another for next month since it is peak gardening season.

Marsha Burkhart updated us on the Octagon House project. On Wednesday, 17 Jun 2020, several EMGs removed the old landscape fabric and mulch, and then planted over 75 perennials. On Tuesday, 23 Jun 2020, more volunteers put down black mulch. Signarama provided an estimate of $120.65 for a 12” x 18” angled sign with our name on it, and Marsha asked if the group would be interested in paying for the sign. She indicated that the Octagon House purchased the Preen and fertilizer, and Marsha donated the mulch. There’s a Fish Fry on 11 Jul 2020 to benefit the Octagon House and we’d like to have the sign completed by then. A motion to allocate the money was made and seconded, and voting took place by chat. The motion passed. There was some discussion about labeling one of each of the plants for educational purposes and Teresa and Marsha will get together to accomplish that prior to the Fish Fry. Marsha asked Jerry to confirm that we are a 501(c)(3) corporation; he did, and asked Teresa to forward a copy of the form to Marsha. Marsha also commented that Signarama will send a proof of the sign to the Extension Office for approval.

Elaine updated us on the Shade Garden. She has called 811 to confirm that there are no underground utilities where we are planning to install the garden and has received the approval from the Commissioners to allow Chris Eads to move the stone. It’s now up to Chris to schedule the time. Jerry asked about an email trail with permission, and Lais sent that information while we were talking. Teresa reminded the group to take “before” pictures.

Darlene presented the proposed changes to the by-laws, which were sent out prior to the meeting. Changes included adding the word “Extension” to Purdue Master Gardeners, updating the hours required to obtain or maintain the EMG status, changing the title of members who are no longer active, adding new duties to the vice-president role, changing the name of the Communication Committee to the Media Committee, defining when we would vote on the scholarships, and clarifying that any expenses of more than $100 are to be voted on by the membership at a monthly meeting. Members should thoroughly review the by-laws and we will vote on the changes at the next meeting.

**New Business**

Lais McCartney stated that beginning 01 Jul 2020, we can begin having face-to-face meetings again, barring any changes to the current edicts. Since the Hancock County EMG handles its own budget, we do not have to submit a safety plan to Purdue when we hold an event. She mentioned that we may want to talk to our insurance agent about COVID coverage. Lais thanked the group for being willing to volunteer for the 4-H Fair and encouraged us to check our emails for further opportunities. She also encouraged us to view the Effective Boards webinar that she and others attended, which Teresa will send out the information on shortly. Lais also shared the following link where people can go to purchase cool MG items:

https://shop.frecklesgraphics.com/purdue\_master\_gardener/shop/home

Lynn Meier and Tim Harris have both reached the Advanced Master Gardener status. Congrats to Lynn and Tim!! Lais said that John Orick stated that the Master Gardener classes in the fall will most likely be virtual courses and also asked us to help her by sending her ideas for how she can be a better ANR Educator. She also mentioned that we have an opportunity through the Hancock County Community Foundation to get a grant for a banner for downtown Greenfield to promote the HCEMG. Teresa will look into it and report back at the next meeting.

**Other Business**

Teresa let the group know that nothing in the DNR license and the sales tax exemption for non-profits laws would prevent us from having a Fall Plant Sale. There were no objections to moving forward; many indicated that it was a good idea. Teresa will talk with Doug about whether the show arena is available.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded at 8:02 PM. The next meeting will be held on July 23, 2020 at 6:30 PM at the Extension Office in the main conference room.

**Minutes prepared by:**

Teresa Bowlby, Secretary