## Hancock County Extension Master Gardeners

## Meeting Minutes

## November 18, 2020

**Opening**

The meeting was called to order by President Jerry LeCount at 6:31 PM. The meeting took place via Zoom due to social distancing concerns.

**Education**

There was no educational portion of the meeting this month.

**Approvals**

Jerry opened the business portion of the meetingby asking for any questions regarding the minutes. Being none, a motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Teresa Bowlby, seconded by Greg Arthur, and approved.

The Treasurer’s report was presented by Greg. The current balance is $5502.15 with $100.00 cash on hand, and $5402.15 in the bank.

**Old Business**

Don McAuley reported on behalf of the Media Committee. Bruce Matter has decided to take a break from administering our FaceBook page, so we need 1-2 volunteers willing to post educational documents as well as the fun stuff like Bruce has been doing. Bruce will provide the training and help make the transition. **Anyone interested should email Don.** Tim Harris will be taking a photo of the new officers whenever COVID19 will allow us to get together. He will also be taking over as chairperson of the Media Committee. Don also reported that Teresa had asked the Media Committee whether we could store electronic versions of the minutes and other important documents on our Google Drive. **Tim will be working with her to make that happen.** The media also wants to train Darlene Trusty, Elaine Whitfield, and Bruce how to post on the website, since they answer the “Ask a Master Gardener” questions.

Jerry commented that it has been determined that the Hope House will be the recipient of our “old” computer and a printer. Jerry asked that someone contact them about receiving these items, and Paul commented that he just sent the Hope House contact information to Teresa and Lais McCartney. **Teresa will contact the Hope House.** There were discussions about scrubbing it prior to donation. **Jerry will put pertinent information onto a flash drive, take it to Lais, and then Don will pick it up at her office to reset to factory settings.** Jerry then discussed the purchase of a new iPad in 2021, and Teresa suggested that we check out the Black Friday deals at stores like Best Buy. The Extension Office has hotspots that we could borrow in instances where we need wifi. Jerry asked members to vote to purchase an iPad, and the vote passed. The individual votes are attached to these minutes. It was also suggested that a short training be provided to individuals who may not be familiar with iOS, possibly at a future meeting. **Greg and Darlene were tasked with obtaining a new iPad.**

Darlene Trusty summarized the by-law amendments that will be up for approval next year. We’ll be changing the date of the monthly meeting, and created an Awards committee. We are also adding the Youth Education Committee. There were no questions, and we will vote on the amendment at our January meeting.

**New Business**

Jerry gave his State of the Association address, which mainly focused on the effects of COVID on our ability to conduct business as usual, particularly with the Plant Sale and Green Thumb. He mentioned Roy’s departure and welcomed Lais again. He reminded us that we switched web providers, moving some tasks in-house, and rolled out a newsletter. He noted that we didn’t fail to meet our core mission of “Helping Others Grow.” Jerry complimented all of the committees. He encouraged us to continue to expand our outreach, including welcoming 23 new Master Gardeners. He considered it a privilege to serve as President and looks forward to a great 2021.

The election of officers was held next. Lee Rose-Alexander presented the slate of officers:

President – Darlene Trusty

Vice-President – Mike Yancy

Secretary – Teresa Bowlby

Treasurer – Greg Arthur

Don commented that he felt the biggest challenge for the new officers was to engage the current students, but felt sure that they were up to the task. Jerry entertained a motion to accept the slate of officers, and members voted via the chat function. The individual votes are attached to these minutes, and the slate was accepted.

**Educator Update:**

Lais shared a 2020 chart indicating that although we are 11th in the total number of volunteer hours in the state, we are 7th in volunteer hours per person and 4th in education hours per person. She also shared a very close-up video of some of the flowers in the Extension Gardens. Lais also thanked the members for coming to the classes and sharing committee information with them. She also announced the following award recipients:

August – Brenda Hayes, Bronze Level

September – Janet Ridenour, Silver Level; Teresa Bowlby, Bronze Level; Mary Elliott, Bronze Level; Larry Robertson, Certified Master Gardener, Darlene Trusty, Gold Level.

October – Connie Dickinson, Bronze Level; Rosemary Hill, Bronze Level; Rita Miller, Bronze Level; Elaine Whitfield, Gold Level

November – Peggy Robertson, Bronze Level

Congratulations to the award winners!!

**Lais also plans to share our various gardens on our Facebook page, and encourages anyone to share any other stories on our page.** She also offered anyone the CDs that found in the office, and commented on Mary Wells’ visit to our county. She’s the Invasive Species Initiative Regional Specialist, who can come to you for free and create a plan to deal with invasive species. Mary Ann Wietbrock suggested that Mary Wells be a speaker in 2021. Lais also let us know that we can have soil sample tests run for around $10; the bags are at the Extension Office and now is a great time to get the testing done. She also mentioned that there will be another EMG class in 2021.

Paul Norton had a shout out to Lais and others for helping pull out the vincas in Downtown Greenfield.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 PM. The next meeting will be held on January 27, 2021 at 6:30 PM via Zoom.

**Minutes prepared by:**

Teresa Bowlby, Secretary