## Hancock County Extension Master Gardeners

## Meeting Minutes

## September 24, 2020

**Opening**

The meeting was called to order by President Jerry LeCount at 6:30 PM. There were attendees both in person and via Zoom.

**Extension Update**

Lais McCartney provided an update at the beginning of the meeting due to scheduling conflicts. She asked us about donating seed to a group in Marion County and we will discuss this topic later in the meeting. Lais also mentioned a cool leadership opportunity called Virtual Master Gardener Roundtable on October 5th from 6:30-8:00 PM; she sent information earlier and **Teresa Bowlby will resend the link as a reminder to everyone.** Additionally, Lais indicated that the Master Gardener logo is being phased out around February of 2021. She isn’t sure what the new logo will look like, but wanted to make us aware. She also indicated that current versions of the logo that are on display (such as the one at the Octagon House) do not need to be updated. Also, the current EMG class is going really well, and Don McAuley and Lais discussed sharing with that group the purpose/activities of each committee during the last 15 minutes of class. She had a signup sheet available.

**Education**

Vicki Snarr, Hancock County Advanced Master Gardener Education Committee Chair, introduced Ryan Hammer, CEO of Crazy Horse Hops. He presented the history of his company, as well as information on the production and processing of hops.

**Break**

Jerry announced a short comfort break of approximately 10 minutes.

**Approvals**

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

The Treasurer’s report was presented by Greg. The current balance is $5927.50, with $100.00 cash on hand, and $5,827.50 in the bank. All September deposits and/or expenses were related to our Fall Plant Sale.

**Old Business**

Elaine Whitfield updated us on the Shade Garden, which is ready for planting thanks to Greg’s hard work leveling the soil. There are plans for a workday on Saturday, where hostas and other shade-loving plants will be planted in the shade garden and other areas have been picked out for the remaining plants left over from the Plant Sale.

Teresa reported on the Fall Plant Sale. She thanked everyone who participated in any way. We sold 679 out of the 788 plants available – that’s 86%! The fall online sales brought in a total of $1,578.16; cash sales were $589.05 and we had expenses of $286.66, leaving us with a profit of $1,880.55. With the profit of $471.13 from the spring sale, we have a total of $2351.68.

Rosemary Hill reported that the New Castle Seed Library will be hosting a program on Invasive Species on Monday, 28 September 2020, led virtually by Dr. Helen Stuessy. Handouts were available at the meeting, and there is a link to register on the Master Gardener Facebook page.

Don reported on behalf of the Media Committee via email, as there was a power failure and he was unable to report live. Copy for his email is as follows:

* Darlene Trusty volunteered to participate as a member of the Media Committee and has answered several AAMG questions.
* Copy from Media Committee members for 3rd quarter, October Newsletter sent to Katy, our editor, including copy by Teresa on the Jane Reeves Octagon House. Thanks Teresa!
* Don met with Lais to discuss a thought brought up in our last Media Committee meeting to have committee leaders provide an overview of their committees to the new trainees/Interns, including opportunities for volunteer hours. Lais was receptive to this idea. I would suggest that committee leaders contact Lais to follow up. In addition, Don discussed the idea of taking our newsletter public to interested gardeners in our local gardening community.

Jerry confirmed that the 1.5 boxes from last year will be donated to the Marion County Community Gardens.

Regarding the laptop replacement, Bruce Matter reported that Purdue has no discounts and he reached out to other Media Committee members for additional ideas. Teresa reported that the Solid Waste District Management group purchased theirs from Verizon. It is $100 less if purchased from Amazon, but without cell service, and **Jerry will contact Verizon for more information**.

Darlene Trusty updated us on the Mentoring process. There are still 12 interns without mentors, and Darlene passed around a clipboard to encourage engagement in mentoring interns, and a list of what the interns needed and ideas for mentoring.

The Nominating Committee met and came up with a list of people that they plan to approach regarding the vice-presidency. Rosemary said that Loretta Mitchell has joined the committee and would like to ask that any persons interested contact them. Lee Rose-Alexander also requested that someone read out what the VP requirements are, so people would be more familiar with them. Darlene read those to the group.

**New Business**

Jerry mentioned a couple of options regarding the November pitch-in dinner that were discussed during the Officer’s meeting. Vicki brought up that she and Don spoke about having a cookout outside, in October, in lieu of the November meeting. She said it could be at her house, or perhaps at the park. There was discussion about the weather and grilling at the Park Shelter. **Joe Whitfield volunteered to contact the Parks Department about a social gathering on Wednesday, October 28th.** Vicki brought up the educational speaker, and it was decided to move that to the November meeting, when we usually have dinner. To summarize, we will meet at the park; if not, we’ll meet at Vicki’s for the October dinner meeting. November will be a normal meeting, with the exception of officer elections and the State of the Association address.

Brenda Hayes reported that Sue Hamm has asked if anyone has the capability to start seeds for the plants that are given away to children at the 4-H Fair, as she no longer has the capacity. About 600 plants are needed, and Brenda would need to pull the seeds for it. There was a vote to not grow our own plants for the fair, and the Hope Center was suggested as a possible alternative. The general consensus was that we would use the seeds that Brenda has for plants for the fair, if the Hope Center is willing. The discussion regarding the Hope Center was tabled until the next meeting.

Paul Norton presented Certificates of Appreciation to the dozen EMGs that helped with the Vinca planting in June.

Mary Ann Wietbrock asked whether any of the new seeds would be donated to the Pennsy. Elaine suggested that Mary Ann get with Brenda after she finishes sorting. Brenda confirmed that there are some wildflower seed packets, and that she should be done by the end of the week. Bruce mentioned that Meijer currently has wildflower seeds on clearance.

**Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Greg and seconded by Joe at approximately 8:30 PM. The next meeting will be held on October 28, 2020 at a location and time to be determined.

**Minutes prepared by:**

Teresa Bowlby, Secretary