

Hanover Master Gardener Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Hanover Evangelical Friends Church
September 15, 2014

Minutes

President Buz Sawyer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and confirmed a quorum. Buz thanked everyone for their assistance in the coordination and planning for the September 7 Membership Meeting and in preparation for the State Fair. He stated Wanda, Joel, and Beckey were not able to attend, but had submitted reports beforehand. Buz reminded everyone of the memorial service for Melissa Dopp on October 11.

The reading of the minutes was waived for both the August 18 Board of Directors Meeting and the September 7 Membership Meeting, and the minutes were approved as previously distributed by e-mail.

The August Treasurer's Report was submitted by Treasurer Pat Reyes. The Treasurer's Report was accepted, pending audit. A copy of this report will be attached to the file copy of these minutes.

Laura Maxey-Nay, ANR Extension Agent, reported the new MG webpage will be more user-friendly and have a password to allow access to documents. Laura stated she and Wanda were working to have a new MG recruiting pamphlet available in time for use at the State Fair. She reminded the Board of the Pest Lab on Tuesday (6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.) and Help Desk Training scheduled for Wednesday (9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.) Laura stated that AG Day at Poor Farm Park is October 15-16, and she will need a coordinator and volunteers.

Christy Brennan, VMGA Representative, continues planning and coordination of the MG Booth for the Virginia State Fair. She said there are still volunteer opportunities for watering plants at the State Fair. The theme for the MG Booth will be "Protecting Pollinators." She plans to use our existing backdrops, and has coordinated with VCE and Chesterfield County on ideas. Christy will borrow pictures from their "Bumblebee Jamboree" held June 14 at Maymont Park in support of National Pollinator Week. The children's project will be to make mason bee tubes. Christy passed around handouts that will be distributed to children. Muffi will design and print signs to be displayed to welcome each MG unit volunteering at the State Fair. Christy stated Dave Close has sent MG bags to be handed out to the teachers. She also has some MG bags left from last year that will be available.

Joel Klein, Plant Sale Committee, was unable to attend. Barb Sawyer reported in his absence that the fall plant sale will take place on October 11. The sale, scaled back considerably from previous years, will be held at the home of Pat Reyes. Pat Reyes and Linda Hazelwood have arranged for donations of plants from Dick Bednar, Beth Burrell, and Carolyn's Garden. Hypertufas made by MGs at a hypertufa workshop at the home of Linda and Ed Hazelwood on August 17 will also be available for sale.

Barb Sawyer, Member Meetings, reported a good turnout for the September 7, HMGA Membership Meeting and picnic. The September Membership Meeting was followed by a presentation on "The

Botany of Fall Color” by John Hayden, Professor of Biology at the University of Richmond and the Botany Chair for the Virginia Native Plant Society. John answered questions following the presentation. The next Member Meeting is scheduled for November 14, when Lance Gardner will discuss “Low Maintenance Organic Gardening.” Barb is planning a “Project Fair” Member Meeting for January 22, to highlight the projects for the year and provide information on volunteer opportunities at each event. Hanover MGs will host the February 2015 VMGA Meeting at HEFC, and volunteers will be needed.

Buz, reporting for Pattie Bland, Nominating Committee, stated the committee was making progress. The committee, including Christy Brennan and Juanita Wrenn, was announced at the September Membership Meeting, and members were invited to make recommendations to the committee. The committee should have a slate of officers to present at the October BOD Meeting.

Lorre Hyatt, Training Class Coordinator, stated she is working on curriculum revisions for the 2015 MG training class. She will incorporate the type of Help Desk questions received and adjust the training class accordingly, with emphasis on pest management. Dave Myers will do some training for plant clinics. Lorre reports the schedule has been set, but speakers are still needed. All classes will be held at the Parks and Recreation Building, and the dates have been reserved. The application period will run from September 15 until October 31. A public information meeting is scheduled for October 22. The committee will review applications and conduct interviews in November. The class will be limited to 16 individuals that display interest in the volunteer and education purposes of the MG Program. Some applicants may be diverted to HGS. Applicants will be informed by December 1 whether or not they are accepted for the class. The Mentor/Mentee dinner is January 6, 2015, at the Parks and Recreation Building. The policy for missed classes is also being reviewed and revised. The Bedford unit conducts make-up classes online, and Lorre will investigate.

Beckey Watson, Grants Committee, was unable to attend. Buz reported in her absence. Grant applications were sent to the principals, lead science teachers, and other targeted positions at 24 Hanover schools. The deadline for applications is December 15, 2014. Applications will be reviewed by committee members. The Grants Committee will meet in January to review their findings and make recommendations for Grant awards to the Board at the January BOD meeting. Grant recipients will be announced February 1, 2015.

Theresa Cammarata, HGS, reported she would not be able to continue in the Coordinator position next year. She has all the information from previous HGS presentations and will work with a new coordinator. She recommended Betty Jane Hughes, Virginia Nicholas, and Blair Lewis as possible successors. She said Wanda had suggested that interns or MGs would benefit from shadowing coordinators. Buz thanked Theresa for doing a wonderful job managing this outreach project.

Ian Sutton, Plant Clinics, reported he hopes to assemble a committee to assist with planning and providing input for 2015 Plant Clinics. Ian suggested providing additional training on how MGs should present themselves at a Plant Clinic, and the wearing of standard uniforms. He suggested the best use for Plant Clinics is to recruit for the MG program. Betsy said she had used some of Ian’s suggestions to get two individuals interested in MG training. Ian suggested the need for something eye-catching to draw the public. He said ten-minute demonstrations or talks might help. A theme or plant material could also be a draw. Ian recommended a process to reply to people with answers to questions submitted to VT. Lorre suggested publishing the Plant Clinic schedule listing topics to be discussed. Buz said an inventory of Plant Clinic materials and a checklist for PC boxes would also be helpful.

Barb reported she had completed the purchase of two laptop computers and other hardware items approved at the February BOD Meeting to outfit a second media cart. Laura contacted VT regarding providing the Microsoft software to the HMGA. VT would provide the software, without cost, providing we place a VT sticker on the computers and send the computers to VT for disposal at the end of their useful life. This option was discussed, but some members felt this could become a potential problem in the future. A motion to spend up to \$350 to purchase updated software for both computers was previously approved at the August meeting. A motion to spend additional funds to purchase the needed software was approved. Theresa and Buz will do set-up instructions and lists of equipment for each media cart.

Bus stated our current arrangement with TSI for sales of HMG promotional items does not work. The use of TSI was intended to get the HMGA out of the inventory business. Muffi suggested we set up a free Square online account where these items could be sold, and then revisit the subject at a future BOD Meeting. She asked if we could make Vista Print available to MGs on the website.

Buz contacted David Posner, of Royal Productions, about his offer of a free space for the Hanover Master Gardeners at the Richmond Home and Garden Show on March 6-8, 2015. Royal Productions has purchased the Richmond H&G Show from Mac Events and plans to devote the Dominion Building, at the Richmond Raceway event, entirely to gardening. Buz proposed we partner with other area MG units and said he would pursue the idea.

Barb reported that the HMG has been requested by Sandy's Plants to participate in a Youth Workshop in April 2015. Sandy's Plants will be open for families to tour. Youth will be welcome to plant a "6-pack" to take home and tend. All materials will be provided by Sandy's Plants. MGs will be on hand to answer questions and provide assistance as needed. The BOD approved the volunteer opportunity.

Buz said he had contacted Crowder's Buildings about trading or replacing the storage shed. Options were discussed but more information was requested before a final decision. Laura will check to see if a second shed could be placed beside the existing shed.

Buz announced the next Board of Directors Meeting will be October 20, 2014, at the HEFC.

The September Meeting of the HMGA Board of Directors was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Present: Buz Sawyer, Betsy Lyon, Pat Reyes, Wayne Bryant, Laura Maxey-Nay, Christy Brennan, Ian Sutton, Juanita Wrenn, Linda Hazelwood, Emily Gianfortoni, Barb Sawyer, Dave Myers, Muffi Grinnell, Lorre Hyatt, and Theresa Cammarata. The attendance sheet will be attached to the file copy of these minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

**Wayne Bryant
Secretary**