

Hanover Master Gardener Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Hanover Evangelical Friends Church
January 16, 2017

Minutes

President Doris Gullotta called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m., and confirmed a quorum. Doris welcomed everyone and invited comments and suggestions on any MG concern. She stated that she had met with Angelette Pryor on January 11 to discuss agendas for HMGA meetings and any issues related to MG activities. They have planned to meet once a month, before BOD meetings. They are working on the possibility of setting up a refresher course on using VMS. The class could be held on a Saturday in late March at the Parks and Recreation office. Doris and Betty Jane Hughes have also offered to have classes, or meet on an individual basis, with MGs at libraries around the county. There is a new VMS Tip Sheet available in the Document section of VMS, and a VMS User Guide available from the VMS Home page. They are working on a "Guideline to Working the Help Desk" similar to the one for Plant Clinics. Doris confirmed the appointments of the following coordinators: Buz Sawyer - Plant Clinic; Emily Gianfortoni - Adult Public Education; Dave Myers - MG Room; Liz Campbell – Membership. The Youth Public Education Coordinator position remains open.

The reading of the minutes for both the November 21, 2016, Board of Directors Meeting and the December 9, 2016, General Membership Meeting was waived. The minutes were approved as previously distributed by e-mail.

Pat Reyes, Treasurer, presented the financial reports through December, 2016. The reports were accepted, pending audit, and will be attached to the file copy of these minutes. Pat submitted a 2017 budget proposal for the HMGA. The budget was discussed, amended, and approved.

Christy Brennan, VMGA, reported that the MG handbooks (versions for printing or digital) are available for \$50 to existing MGs. Six new training modules on basic subjects have been created, and are available online. Christy stated that the VMGA is trying to increase membership. She hopes to establish a link on VMS for the VMGA minutes. There are many events and projects where MGs can get approved volunteer and education hours. On March 28, the VMGA will sponsor a trip and tour of Battlefield Farms, one of the largest bulb growers on the east coast. The keynote speaker will be Cole Burrell, and there will also be a speaker from Holland to discuss the history of bulb production and marketing. A fee of \$25 will be charged, lunch will be provided, and registration will be limited. The next meeting of the VMGA will be February 18, at Merrifield Gardens. Details are available on the VMGA website.

Angelette Pryor, Volunteer Coordinator, stated that the staff have been working on required annual reports to VT and have not been readily available. She did report that the Strategic Planning Committee has been doing fabulous work. Angelette stated that results of the last MG survey are being evaluated, and that a new motivational survey will be out soon.

Liz Campbell, Membership, reported that the eleven trainees and forty MGs have paid HMGA dues for 2017. She will send out reminders and follow up with the MGs that have not paid.

Betty Jane Hughes, Immediate Past President, reported she had completed her “Year in Review” for Laura Maxey-Nay, and the HMGA Annual Report through the end of 2016. The Annual Report is available on VMS. She is also working with Doris to document all projects and proposals for review and approval by Laura.

Beckey Watson, Grants Committee, was unable to attend. Her report (attached), previously distributed by e-mail, recommended awarding two grants. Beaverdam Elementary submitted a request for \$220 for “Grasses for the Masses – From Beaverdam to the Bay,” to grow and transplant wild celery into the James River and to educate the students on sustainable landscape management. Henry Clay Elementary requested \$500 to continue their “Roots and Shoots” program to educate students on where their food comes from. The report was discussed and approved. Doris thanked the Grants Committee, which includes Kristin Reihl, Mary Wagner, Sammye Daou, Renee Mullins, Nancy LaFevre, and Beckey Watson for their work. Betty Jane volunteered to assist with communicating the approvals and distribution of the grant funds.

Lorre Hyatt, Training, reported that there are currently eleven trainees. The Mentor-Trainee dinner was held on Wednesday, January 4, and training classes started on Thursday, January 5. The second training class was cancelled because of the weather, and has been rescheduled. She stated that volunteers were still needed for the host and facilitator positions. Betty Jane has filled in during shortages of volunteers. Lorre suggested a committee be created to facilitate the transition to a new Training Coordinator. The Board agreed that a committee was needed.

Joel Klein, Plant Sale, reported that the Spring plant sale is still scheduled for April 22. He stated that the date is “Earth Day,” and will conflict with other sales and events in the area.

Buz Sawyer, Plant Clinics, was unable to attend. Betty Jane stated a meeting for all MGs interested in volunteering with the Plant Clinics will be held on January 30, 7:00 p.m., at the Parks and Recreation Building. Liz Campbell has sent out two notices, and it has been posted on the Announcement Board.

Ed Wall, HGS, reported that the January 7, HGS class was cancelled due to weather, and was rescheduled for February 4, at the Mechanicsville Library. Betty Jane will change the date on the VMS calendar. Ed stated that Brenda Burke has agreed to lead the HGS “Landscaping” class on March 4, a change due to a scheduling conflict. Many other Hanover libraries are interested in having HGS classes, including Montpelier, in the far west end of the county.

Doris, Scotchtown, reported that she has received approval from Laura to allow up to four volunteer hours at Scotchtown to be counted towards the MG-required twenty. Four hours may be recorded as VM7; volunteer hours after that will be recorded as NEP1 unless interacting with tour groups or visitors, in which case they can be recorded as ES1. Doris hopes this change will encourage more volunteers.

Betty Jane reported that Rita Schalk, Unit Coordinator, has received a request from the Boy Scouts, who would like to build a three-stage compost system somewhere in the county as a project to earn a Scout badge. Doris suggested Scotchtown. Other suggestions included Hanover schools, Ashwood Gardens, and Ashland community gardens. Doris will check with Scotchtown or an alternative.

Susie Knuth, Member Meetings, said the February 3, General Membership Meeting will feature Sheila Weisensale presenting her program, “Grow and Design with Your Own Foliage.” Susie reported that three members had volunteered to give presentations at member-led meetings if they were held in Ashland. The board discussed the possibility of having a meeting there in the daytime, or on a Saturday, or an evening in October. Susie will continue to investigate a date, time, and location.

Doris stated that the next Board of Directors Meeting will be held on February 20, at the HEFC. The January meeting of the HMGA Board of Directors was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Present: Doris Gullotta, Susie Knuth, Pat Reyes, Wayne Bryant, Betty Jane Hughes, Angelette Pryor, Linda Hazelwood, Christy Brennan, Emily Gianfortoni, Dave Myers, Liz Campbell, Ed Wall, Lorre Hyatt, Lisa Willis, Juanita Wrenn, and Joel Klein. The attendance sheet will be attached to the file copy of these minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

**Wayne Bryant
Secretary**



Grants Committee
Report - 2017.pdf