

**Hanover Master Gardener Association**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Hanover Evangelical Friends Church**  
**April 17, 2017**

**Minutes**

President Doris Gullotta called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and confirmed a quorum.

The reading of the minutes for the January 16, 2017, BOD Meeting; the February 20, 2017, BOD Meeting; the March 20, 2017, BOD Meeting; and the February 3, 2017, General Membership Meeting was waived. There were no changes, and the minutes were approved as previously distributed by e-mail.

Pat Reyes, Treasurer, presented the financial report through March 31, 2017. The report was accepted, pending audit.

Christy Brennan, VMGA, reported that the VMGA meeting was held April 8, 2017, in Lynchburg. She reminded MGs that the VMGA offers scholarships to MG College, and anyone interested should apply through the ANR Agent or the Volunteer Coordinator. She stated that interest from the VMGA Endowment Fund is being used to finance training videos. VMGA sponsored a trip and tour of Battlefield Farms on March 28. The feedback was that too much emphasis was placed on market research. Christy stated that the VMGA is planning an educational event at VSU for the fall. Christy would like to step down from coordinating the MGs at the State Fair. She would like a Hanover MG to volunteer before the VMGA opens the position to other units. Buz volunteered to twist arms.

Emily Gianfortoni reported that the MG College is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> year. Registration should open by May 1. Classes are June 22-25. Land Care Steward training will be held June 21. MG College is requesting contributions from units to support the program. The suggestion is for a \$50 per year pledge from each unit. Buz Sawyer moved that the HMGA donate \$250 to the MG College. The motion was seconded and approved. Emily stated that there will not be "Brag Boards" this year. Instead, each unit is invited to put together a 6-slide PowerPoint presentation highlighting their projects. She stated that the auction will be different this year. Specific types of items will be requested from each unit.

Laura Maxey, VCE, reported that she has been working on updating and creating policies for the HMGs and posting them on VMS. She stated that the VCE changes to the way volunteer hours are recorded in VMS will not take place until 2018. Laura reports that Hanover County VCE is conducting a Strategic Planning Survey with county residents to compare their priorities for VCE with projects currently offered. Residents are asked to go on-line and take the survey. Fifteen surveys have been completed on line. At the last BOD meeting, the Board suggested handing out the survey at plant clinics. Surveys were included in each PC box. The PCs at Lowe's collected 27 responses. Results of the surveys will be presented to county leaders during the 50-Mile Meal on July 27, 2017. Laura reported that MGs have been contacted by the Patrick Henry YMCA about partnering on a community garden. A previous partnership at the courthouse might be used as reference. Patty Bland may have some records from that project. Residents of the Dabney's Lake area contacted the Extension Office about an algae bloom problem. She suggested that it was an opportunity to team with Soil and Water to educate the residents.

Angelette Pryor, Volunteer Coordinator, is planning a date this fall to hold mandatory training for MGs. She is working to incorporate mandatory training into the yearly calendar, possibility as a member-led meeting in November. She and Doris have discussed the need for a new Coordinator for Consultations to handle site visits. Coordinators are also needed for Youth, Speakers Bureau, and VMS. They also want to explore having a Help Desk in the evenings, one night a week, from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Angelette has received the award pins for MG volunteers, and will present them to current active MGs during the May 5, General Membership Meeting.

Buz Sawyer, Hugh Rooney Scholarship, reminded members that problems arose last year with the structure of the program. To maintain our Section 501(c)(3) tax status, the program needed to be changed. Buz has undertaken that challenge, and has emailed a copy of the Guidelines and Criteria and a copy of the Application Form to each voting member of the BOD prior to the April meeting. He discussed the proposal and intent of the scholarship. A motion to approve the changes to the scholarship program and to the application was seconded and approved. Information on the program will be distributed by e-mail and the Announcement Board.

Ed Wall, HGS, reported that all classes are completed. He praised the dedicated volunteers that assisted him in making the program a success. He volunteered to lead the program again next year, and plans to expand it to include classes at the Montpelier Library.

Lorre Hyatt, Training, reported all classes have been completed, and she is working on grading the exams. Ten trainees, of the eleven who started, completed the program. Lorre is planning a meeting to evaluate the program and plan changes for next year. She stated that she will need someone to take over the program for 2018, but offered her assistance and support.

Buz Sawyer, Plant Clinics, reported the year is off to a terrific start with over 900 contacts at Maymont. He said that he received a very nice note from Peggy Singlemann, who said that the HMGs did a fabulous job, and that Maymont was happy to have us there. He also reported two excellent Plant Clinics at Lowe's in Mechanicsville, which Lisa Willis confirmed.

Susie Knuth, Meetings, stated that the General Membership Meeting will host the 2017 Training Class graduates on May 5, 2017. The speaker will be Richard Nunnally, who will present a program on "How to Have a Healthy Lawn." The July 7, 2017, member-led meeting will be at the Ashland Library and feature Beckey Watson, speaking on "Recycling in the Garden."

Doris stated the next Board of Directors Meeting will be held on May 15, at the HEFC. The April meeting of the HMGA Board of Directors was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Wayne Bryant  
Secretary**