

Hanover Master Gardener Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Hanover Extension Grounds
October 19, 2020

Minutes

Pattie Bland, President, called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m. There were not enough voting Board members in attendance to confirm a quorum.

The reading of the minutes of the September 21, 2020, Board of Directors meeting was waived. There were no changes to the minutes.

Pat Reyes, Treasurer, presented the financial report through September. The financial report was accepted, pending review, and will be attached to the file copy of these minutes.

Angelette Pryor, Volunteer Coordinator, reported that Laura Maxey-Nay, VCE/ANR, recently met with John Budesky, the new Hanover County Administrator. She stated that Parks and Recreation is scheduled to move to their new facilities in early November. There is hope that some repairs and upgrades of the facility will happen after the move. Parks and Rec will retain two offices. Control of the meeting rooms is still in question. Angelette reported the October 15 Leadership Development Series topic was "Programming Pivots: New Program Development During the Pandemic," where the HGS program switch from in person to Zoom was discussed. She stated that the HGS program has had 869 followers on Facebook. Angelette reported that HGS presentations are being viewed "live" by as many as 30 people. Recordings have received as many as 500 views. She said HUGS will wind down for the year at the end of October. Angelette stated that only 2 people have signed up in Hanover for 2021 MG training via Zoom. If Hanover does not get at least 5 people to sign up, the Hanover class will be combined with Henrico, but their volunteer hours will be performed in Hanover. Posters have been made and fliers are being distributed to promote the MG course. Angelette stated that Brenda Hamm has several ideas for MG Trips and Tours when the program can restart next year.

Ginny Nicholas, HMGA Meetings, reported that there was good attendance to Betty Jane Hughes' talk at the October 5 Member-led meeting on "Working with the Public." The November 2 Member-led meeting has been cancelled. Dave Slack from the Department of Forestry will speak on "Native Trees and Their Benefit to Wildlife" at the December 3 General Membership meeting. Angelette has scheduled an MG meeting on January 7, 2021, for Civil Rights and Risk Management training. Marcie Townsend will speak at the February 1 meeting on the "Potager Gardens." Sara Mallory with The Freckled Flower Farm will discuss "Flower Farming Techniques" with a hand-tied bouquet demonstration at the March 1 meeting. Ginny has confirmed meeting dates for 2021, and they have been submitted to the HFEC for approval.

Betty Jane Hughes, Communications, was not in attendance. Pattie reported that Julie Givler is concerned about the lag time in getting MG written articles into the local newspapers. Pattie suggested that the Board consider an MG newsletter that could be linked to Facebook and the HMGA website.

Val Kish, Help Desk, was not in attendance. Pattie reported for her that inquiries to the Help Desk are falling off, and considering the challenges, it was a good year.

Susan Doran, Plant Clinics, stated that she is waiting for restrictions on gatherings to be lifted.

Doris Gullotta, Scotchtown, was not in attendance and sent her reports by email to Pattie. Doris was at the gardens last week and reported that the asters, pruned in July, are blooming at half the height, just as she wanted. She has scheduled a date for clean-up. Volunteers should sign up on VMS. Doris will arrange to purchase native hydrangeas to replace the Japanese hollies. She sent out a list of plants needed for the garden. If anyone has donations of butterfly weed or peonies, please let Doris know. They can be brought to the clean-up or dropped off beforehand at the Extension office.

Doris, Nominating Committee Chair, reported by email that all officers, except for the Vice President, have volunteered to serve again in 2021. All other voting members of the Board have also responded affirmatively. One additional voting nominee has been presented. Doris stated that the committee will work to recruit a VP candidate and finalize a recommended slate of candidates. The committee will submit their recommendations to the BOD in November.

Christy Brennan, VMGA, sent her report to Pattie:

- There was a good presentation on using the VT Canvas site for MG training. Units using the site report that there is a wide variety of classes, it is easy to set up, easy to track attendee progress, and to issue certificates of completion. Devon Johnson and Kathleen Reed can help set this up and answer any questions.
- A second PowerPoint presentation on a virtual help desk program, originally developed by Penn State and refined by the Albemarle MGs, was very informative. The program includes all forms required by VCE. Each call/visit to the office is entered into the program and a file/ticket is created where photos, research, and lab results can be uploaded. Tickets can be tracked, searched, updated, and closed. The system can run monthly and yearly reports. Albemarle is sharing the program with other units, and several in Northern Virginia are using it. They have created a user manual that has been a game changer for MGs that are not computer savvy. Contact melanie@vt.edu or arron@virginia.edu for more information.
- There are three more Leadership Development Series sessions (CE) offered to all MGs. For more details on each session and to access the registration link go to: <https://mastergardener.ext.vt.edu/current-resources/leadership/>
- Several MGs have asked if viewing of the MG College sessions could be extended. VCE has replied that they will end in December.
- Content is needed for the VMGA Newsletter. Christy asked if some of the articles written by Hanover MGs for the local papers could be shared. Pattie will refer the request to Julie Givler.

The Board was reminded that the next BOD meeting will be on November 16, 2020. The October 19, 2020, meeting of the HMGA Board of Directors was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Present: Pattie Bland, Ginny Nicholas, Pat Reyes, Wayne Bryant, Linda Hazelwood, Lisa Willis, Angelette Pryor, Juanita Wrenn, and Susan Doran. The sign-in sheet will be attached to the file copy of these minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Bryant
Secretary