

Hanover Master Gardener Association
General Membership Meeting
Via Zoom
February 8, 2021

Minutes

Pattie Bland, President, called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the HMGA quarterly Association meeting. There were 45 participants at the meeting.

Angelette Pryor, Volunteer Coordinator, reported that MGs will be required to complete 20 volunteer hours and have 8 hours of education in 2021. She reported that Kate Sandy has completed her 50 hours and is now a full-fledged MG. Angelette said several other interns are close on her heels. Angelette said that 12 people started HMG Training in January. The trainees are Janet Bailey, Katrina Hart, Katherine Hebert, Susannah Merritt, Kevin Muldowney, Corinna Muldowney, Crystal Nelson, Becky Ross, Melanie Smith, Katrina Suarez, Caroline Velazquez, and Jamaal Willis.

Pattie asked Angelette to give an update on the Better Impact system. Angelette said that she and a group of MG administrators and volunteers are exploring, examining, and devising ways to tweak the system for the HMGs. Angelette plans to schedule training on the system in March.

Angelette said that only Laura Maxey-Nay, Unit Coordinator, can approve CE opportunities. Angelette said there is a short CE Approval form on VMS that needs to accompany any request, and over 99% of requests are approved when submitted correctly.

Angelette said that renovations are continuing at the Extension office. She shared pictures and described the changes that are taking place. Angelette said MGs can get free Wi-Fi outside at the Extension office.

Pattie said that having any kind of group meeting is difficult because of Covid-19 restrictions. She said the February 15, 2021, Board of Directors meeting will be via Zoom. She would like to return to having the BOD meetings outside when weather permits. She will review with Annette Schanz, VP, the possibility of having the next quarterly meeting in person. Pattie stated that a Project Fair will probably not happen this year because of the restrictions. Beckey Watson suggested having the meeting via Zoom. Val Kish suggested having it outdoors. Pattie said there are plenty of slots for speakers at member-led meetings. Pattie asked Pat Reyes about a spring plant sale. Pat replied that there are too many restrictions to have a sale this year. Ginny Nicholas asked if it was possible to have an on-line plant sale. Angelette stated that Laura said that we were not to that point yet. Betty Jane Hughes suggested a MG plant swap later in the year and for MGs to continue potting up plant divisions for that possibility.

Angelette stated that the Hanover County Administrator called and asked Laura if any volunteers were available to help at the Covid-19 call center. Extension has committed to 2 full-time equivalent positions each day. There are two 4-hour shifts each morning and each afternoon. MGs can sign up on VMS. Volunteers will help people sign up on the waiting list for the Covid-19 vaccine. Volunteers should sign up before noon on Friday for the following week. Angelette thanked all the MGs that have already volunteered.

Angelette said there are many ways to volunteer virtually. Projects need volunteers to help project leaders with the planning. Presentations need to be reviewed. Gardening articles need to be written for the local newspapers and other media. Parks and Recreation is looking to partner with the HMGs for projects this year. Speakers are needed for HGS and member-led meetings. Zoom hosts are needed. Some MGs said that they would like more training on using Zoom. Angelette shared some tips and worked with the group. She said she could set up some small groups for Zoom training. Paula Willoughby suggested a class on preparing a PowerPoint presentation. Jane White said she learned from the internet. Katrina Hart offered her assistance to anyone that needed assistance with PowerPoint. Angelette said to check information from the State Cooperative Extension for educational opportunities. To view HGS presentations, you must register to get the link on Friday for the presentation on Saturday.

Angelette discussed the training module being used with the 2021 MG trainees. She said that the classes are currently restricted to the trainees.

Members were reminded that the next BOD meeting will be on February 15, 2021. The February 8, 2021, HMGA General Membership meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Bryant
Secretary