

Hanover Master Gardener Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Via Zoom – May 17, 2021

Minutes

Pattie Bland, President, called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m., and confirmed a quorum.

The reading of the minutes of the April 19, 2021, Board of Directors meeting was waived. The minutes were approved as amended. The reading of the minutes of the May 6, 2021, General Membership meeting was waived. The minutes were approved as previously distributed.

Pat Reyes, Treasurer, presented the financial report through April 2021. The report was accepted pending review.

Laura Maxey-Nay, VCE/HMG, stated that she is accepting and reviewing Activity Proposal forms. She said she has received some exciting new proposals. She stated that an Activity Leader is needed for the office garden before the activity can be approved. Laura will be conducting phone interviews today for a full time Hanover 4-H Agent. Funds have been approved to allow the Volunteer Coordinator position to become a full-time position. A new summer intern (Sara) will start in the office on June 1. Laura said that there is a possibility of a new Regional Extension Agent that would be based out of the expanded Hanover Extension office.

Angelette Pryor, Volunteer Coordinator, said that anyone who has not seen the changes in the offices should walk through. Repairs and upgrades are continuing. Angelette reported the State Extension Master Gardener office confers milestone awards (total of all volunteer hours - Public Education + Continuing Education) for 250, 500, 1,000, and then in increments of 1,000 hours. Last year (2020) was a strange year for volunteer hours, but we still had 7 people earn awards! Awards are for hours earned up until 12/31/2020. Awards are generally given during the fall at Master Gardener College or locally if recipients do not attend. VCE recognized: Sylvia Campbell - 250, Belinda Flournoy - 250, Victoria Shipp - 250, Jane White - 250, Jane Copland - 500, Sandy Pence - 500, and Paula Willoughby - 500. Hanover-Caroline Soil and Water Conservation District approached Hanover Extension to partner on a series of summer workshops. In partnership with Hanover-Caroline Soil and Water Conservation District, one MG assists Hanover-Caroline Soil and Water Conservation District in doing each Make-and-Take Workshop on Vermicomposting Bins, Pet Waste Digesters, and Rain Barrels at park locations in Hanover and Caroline. Carol Brown said that Emily Gianfortoni has agreed to speak at the June 9 workshop, but additional speakers are needed. Volunteers assist with the sessions, answer questions, etc. (but not in a speaker role). This opportunity is approved for volunteer hours including some time to research information.

Annette Schanz, VP/Meetings, was not in attendance. Pattie reminded members of the June 10 General Membership meeting where Dr. Nicholas Ruppel will speak on “Surveying Pollinator Assemblies on Virginia Native Plants.” He will discuss the latest research results on the variety and numbers of pollinators that he and his students have found in the native plant garden on Randolph-Macon Campus in Ashland.

Linda Hazelwood, Land Care Steward, reported that the Land Care Stewards have received some inquiries from the public and are working to arrange a MG training class on Home Visits.

Betty Jane Hughes, Communications, stated that she was working on a SOP for honoraria for speakers. Pattie said that HMGA does not give an honorarium to a state/U.S. government agency speaker. Speakers affiliated with non-government agencies (nonprofits) are given honoraria, which they sometimes elect to designate as a donation to their organization. Pattie said that one MG unit could make a monetary gift to the other MG unit. Betty Jane reported that she purchased thank-you cards with the HMGA logo. Annette has taken charge of the cards. Julie Givler reported that an article on azaleas, written by Carol Brown, has been approved for publication.

Beckey Watson, Grants, reported that Rhonda Searles has edited the introduction and application questions for the Roddey Jones Memorial Grant. It includes a way to add some ready-made projects. (A draft of the application and full report is attached.) An online grant application was received from New Song Methodist Church this week. The application has been forwarded to the full committee.

Rosemary Wilkinson, HGS, reported that two interns have volunteered to help with the summer presentations. A speaker is still needed for Lawns. Rosemary said volunteer opportunities are available, and she is seeking ideas to encourage more volunteers for HGS. She is willing to work with any MG that needs help with their presentation or Zoom.

Kate Sandy, MG Training, stated that she and Jane White are currently seeking a location for the 2022 training class. They are also looking for ways to advertise MG training to the public.

Val Kish, Help Desk, reported that from January through April 2020, the Help Desk had 81 contacts. For the same period in 2021, there were 97 contacts. Val discussed having a public notice reprinted in the local papers to remind citizens that the VCE and MGs are available to assist with their questions. Laura said that could be done. Val reported that VT is again accepting physical samples for evaluation and that VT will soon begin charging for samples submitted for evaluation.

Susan Doran, Plant Clinics, reported that she discussed with Angelette things that could/should be done as restrictions are eased. Susan suggested and discussed with the BOD that a training session, including a mock PC, would be useful to MGs and interns that have never or have not recently participated in a PC. She suggested that site coordinators for each different PC location might be helpful. Susan said that Darlette Meekins has volunteered to coordinate the supplies and materials from the office. The Governor released new COVID-19 guidelines on Friday and VT has not yet released the guidelines for VCE. Susan hopes we can soon start with PCs at Farmers' Markets. Betty Jane reported that the State Fair of Virginia will be held this year.

Pat Reyes, Plant Sales, reported that several MGs have inquired about a fall MG plant sale. She stated that fall plant sales in the past have not been very profitable. She suggested a plant swap be incorporated into a fall meeting, and MGs could discuss the care and cultivation of the plants they bring to share.

Doris Gullotta, Scotchtown, said she visited the gardens on Friday, and everything was looking good. She will schedule an evening (4 p.m. to 7 p.m.) workday at Scotchtown for May 27. MGs will also participate in the May 29 Living History Day (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Many volunteer opportunities will be available to answer questions about the plants growing at Scotchtown.

Angelette Pryor and Laura Maxey-Nay submitted a proposal for Emeritus status for Jane Ruffin to the Board (attached). The Board discussed the proposal. A motion to grant Emeritus status to Jane Ruffin was made, seconded, and approved.

Pattie Bland discussed International MG College that is being held virtually on September 12-17. She said the VMGA is providing scholarships for up to 2 MGs per unit. She proposed the HMGA provide \$150 scholarships for up to 5 Hanover MGs. The Board discussed the proposal, a motion to provide up to \$750 for these scholarships was made, seconded, and approved.

Sandy Pence reported that she has caught the native plant bug. Sandy and Julie Givler cleaned the Butterfly Garden at Pole Green Park this spring, and have identified another site there that would work well for a native plant garden. They have submitted Activity Proposal forms to make the Butterfly Garden and any second site for a native plant garden an approved activity. Laura has asked Sandy and Julie to find out if there is enough interest from other MGs to sustain the projects. The Board discussed the proposals. It was suggested that the gardens at the Extension office needed a new Activity leader, and Sandy might want to take over that activity and expand those gardens. Sandy agreed to become the lead at the office gardens.

The Board was reminded that the next BOD meeting will be on June 21, 2021. The May 17, 2021, meeting of the HMGA Board of Directors was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Present: Pattie Bland, Wayne Bryant, Pat Reyes, Linda Hazelwood, Betty Jane Hughes, Lisa Willis, Jane White, Julie Givler, Doris Gullotta, Laura Maxey-Nay, Angelette Pryor, Val Kish, Carol Brown, Susan Doran, Rosemary Wilkinson, Kate Sandy, Sandy Pence, and Pat Bruker. The attendance sheet will be attached to the file copy of these minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Bryant
Secretary



Report to Board
5-17-21 (1).docx



Rodley Jones Grant
Questions DRAFT 202



Proposal for
Emeritus Status - Jane