

Hanover Master Gardener Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Hanover Evangelical Friends Church
April 16, 2018

Minutes

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

The reading of the minutes of the March 19, 2018, BOD meeting was waived. The minutes were approved as previously distributed by email.

Pat Reyes, Treasurer, presented the financial report through March 31, 2018. The report was accepted, pending audit. Pat reported that she has filed IRS Form 990-N, as required for small tax-exempt organizations. Doris submitted the HMGA P&L statement and balance sheet to a CPA for an audit quotation. She reported that formal audits, with this auditor, start at \$5000. The Board agreed to explore other options.

Laura Maxey-Nay, VCE/HMG, was unable to attend. She asked Angelette Pryor to report for her. Angelette was unable to attend and e-mailed the report to Doris. Doris stated that Rhu Harris will probably be at the plant sale on Saturday, April 21. Laura suggested we should take pictures at the sale. Laura stated that project proposals have been finalized. Any questions about the project proposals should be directed to Laura. Laura wanted to remind the BOD that any MG who wants to do home visits must be trained. Training for home visits will be held on April 27. Anyone interested in the program who cannot attend the scheduled training should contact Laura about alternate arrangements.

Angelette Pryor, Volunteer Coordinator, was unable to attend and e-mailed her report to Doris. Doris stated that Angelette would be sending out a public invitation to the HMGA General Membership Meeting upon her return to work. This statement evoked surprise and consternation among many members of the BOD. After discussion, the BOD agreed that a HMGA General Membership meeting and pot-luck dinner was not a suitable occasion for a public invitation. The Board decided that a separate event with a speaker, light refreshments, and without HMGA business discussions, might be more appropriate. Doris stated that she would inform Angelette of the Board's decision. Angelette requested a table at check-in for the General Membership meeting to hand out small volunteer appreciation gifts, and about seven minutes on the agenda to thank the MG volunteers. Angelette reported that it has been great to see so many MGs retraining for the Help Desk with Val and Emily. She stated that the next Trips and Tours is VSU Small Farm Field Day in June.

Val Kish was unable to attend and e-mailed her report to Doris. Doris stated that the MG Help Desk has received approximately 12 walk-ins, 13 e-mails, and 42 phone calls in the first three months of the year. Val wanted to remind the Board that there will be a meeting of the Fall Training Class Committee on May 1, 2:00 p.m., at the Parks and Recreation office to discuss the May 21 Open House.

Buz Sawyer, Plant Clinics, stated that all Plant Clinic volunteer opportunities have been fully staffed so far. Herbs Galore opportunities filled fast. Angelette sent out an e-mail on April 12, requesting additional volunteers for the May 5 Plant Clinic at the Ashland Farmers Market. Buz stated that he was the area MG liaison to Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens.

Doris reported for Tamara Van Dee, Native Bee Project, that the “Bee Team” has several upcoming opportunities to present their project. Sharon Logan will represent the team and answer questions at a display at the HMGA plant sale on April 21. Doris is working on handouts. The team will be at the Washington-Henry Elementary Earth Day Festival on April 22. Hanover MGs have been invited to Carpenter Company annual health fair on May 1, and the team will have their native bee materials on hand to foster discussions about native bees. Pattie said she is working to schedule a member-led meeting in June to present the materials, and possibility recruit more MGs to join the “Bee Team.” The team has been asked to present a program to the fall training class, and members are planning to do a HGS class in early 2019. The team continues to discuss ways to improve and expand the project by adding information on bumble bees, pollinator habitat, and native plants. Tamara reported that Jennifer Andre Trainham has joined the “Bee Team.”

Emily Gianfortoni/Linda Hazelwood, Advanced MG/Land Care Stewards, are working with Nora Righter, a guest at this BOD meeting, on a new project to start a community garden at HEFC. Nora has met with Beckey Watson to revise her grant application to apply for \$500 from the HMGA to cover costs of materials. Emily stated that there is currently a waiting list of homeowners wanting home visits. Several people that attended HGS have inquired about the program. Emily suggested that contact information for people who are interested could be requested at Plant Clinics. She will work with Buz to notify the public of the new program at Plant Clinics.

Ed Wall, HGS, reported that the program is over for the spring. He stated that 16 people attended the Lawn Class. He said the project was very successful and thanked those that helped make it so.

Christy Brennan, VMGA, stated the April meeting of the VMGA was held at Brent and Becky’s Bulbs in Gloucester, VA. She stated that an anonymous donor has offered to match up to \$25,000 in donations to the Endowment Fund through October. The 2018 Master Gardener College will be June 21-24. The VMGA has donated \$2,000 to MG College. VMGA scholarships for MG College are available, with details on the VMGA website.

Pattie Bland, VP, presented an appeal for monetary support, in the amount of \$500, for the Coastal Zone Management (a division of the Department of Environmental Quality) to help with the costs of producing and printing Virginia regional native plant guides. The BOD is reviewing the request.

Juanita Wrenn informed the BOD that the new director at HEFC school would like the HMGA to become more involved with the students. The Director has some dates and is open to ideas and suggestions for projects to engage the students.

Doris reminded the BOD that the plant sale is April 21. The General Membership Meeting will be on May 4 at the HEFC. She stated the next BOD meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2018, at the HEFC. The April meeting of the HMGA Board of Directors was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Present: Doris Gullotta, Pattie Bland, Pat Reyes, Wayne Bryant, Linda Hazelwood, Emily Gianfortoni, Christy Brennan, Buz Sawyer, Ed Wall, Juanita Wrenn, Lisa Willis and Nora Righter. The attendance sheet will be attached to these minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Bryant
Secretary