

Hanover Master Gardener Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Hanover Evangelical Friends Church
September 16, 2019

Minutes

Pattie Bland, President, called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m., and confirmed a quorum.

The reading of the minutes of both the August 19, 2019, BOD meeting and the September 8, 2019, General Membership meeting was waived. The minutes were approved as previously distributed.

Pat Reyes, Treasurer, presented the financial report through August 31, 2019. Pat stated that she had sent an additional \$250 check to VT to support the MG College. The report was accepted, pending financial review. The financial report will be attached to the file copy of the minutes.

Laura Maxey-Nay, VCE/ANR, discussed the staff vacancies in the Hanover Extension office. She stated that the funds for the 4-H Agent salary have been redirected by VT. She said VT funding priorities for Agent salaries in Virginia are decided by the District Directors and Lonnie Johnson. There are still many vacancies in the district after the buyout, and the top priority of Janet Spencer, Southeast District Director, is to fill Units without an Agent. There is a possibility that the 4H position could be filled next year if State funds are made available. Laura said she is looking into creating two 4H positions; one program assistant to work with current clubs, and another position to build relationships in schools. Laura is working with the County and VT to make the Volunteer Coordinator position full time. Laura stated that she is having trouble tracking down the vendor for the new tablecloths.

Angelette Pryor, Volunteer Coordinator, thanked the 35 MGs and interns that volunteered last Friday and Saturday. Buz Sawyer stated that over 600 people attended the Bug Bizarre on Saturday, and that half were children. He said it was something we should do again next year. Angelette has sent out a request for speakers for the upcoming HGS series and for the Speakers Bureau. Angelette has printed fliers for distribution, listing MG training classes for most of central Virginia. Hanover MG training classes will be held at Woodside Farm. Day classes will be offered in 2020 from January 7 through March 19, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. A MG coordinator is still needed in addition to the three volunteer co-coordinators, one for each month. Ginny Meeks has volunteered for the position. Open House will be on October 24, 2019. The next planning meeting is scheduled for October 4. On September 12, 2019, the BOD sent a letter to Ms. Janet Spencer, the Southeast District Director of the Virginia Cooperative Extension emphasizing the need to change the Volunteer Coordinator position from part time to full time. Ms. Spencer replied, thanking the Hanover MGs for the information that was provided and their service and strong support of the Hanover Extension programs, but was not able to share any information on how or when critical vacancies throughout the state would be filled. On September 12, 2019, a second letter was sent to Edwin J. Jones, PhD., Director -VCE, and Associate Dean - College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at VT, expressing concern over vacancies created by the recent retirement of the Hanover 4-H agent and departure of our unit administrative assistant. The HMGA requested the support of VT in funding the 4-H agent position so that the programs maintain their integrity and current engagement of Hanover County citizens. Angelette announced that the press release detailing the HMGA \$500 grant to ARC of Hanover (A Life

Like Yours) program has been submitted and can be seen on Facebook. A thank you note with project update was recently received by Beckey Watson and shared with the BOD.

Ginny Nicholas, HMGA Meetings, was absent with prior notice. Pattie reported that Dominic Carpin, who spoke at the September General Membership/Picnic meeting, has asked Ginny for an endorsement from the HMGA. The BOD stated that it is not the policy of the HMGA to endorse products, companies, or people. Beckey Watson will speak at the next member-led meeting about “Birds in the Garden” at the Ashland Library on October 7. Richard Wood and Jane White will discuss “Garden Helpers in the Air and Underground - Bats and Worms” at the November 4 member-led meeting. Kathleen Wellington, from Green Springs MG Group, will speak on “Therapeutic Gardening” at the December 2 General Membership meeting.

Emily Gianfortoni/Linda Hazelwood, Advanced Land Care Steward, reported that there were no recent home visits. Linda said that they had a great time at the Bug Bizarre where they distributed 26 boxes of worms and recorded 111 contacts. She said that the SWCD would like to partner with the HMGA to encourage plants to buffer the Chesapeake Bay, control erosion, and show nutrient reduction in runoff.

Betty Jane Hughes, Communications, discussed problems with the website/hosting account, data storage domain, and public interface program and the need to upgrade them. The changes were made, and the costs were approved by the BOD. Additional protections including a firewall and monthly backups were added as previously approved by the BOD. Betty Jane will add Beckey Watson to the account, if she is willing. She will try to find at least one additional person to make editing changes.

Christy Brennan/Pattie Bland, State Fair, are waiting on the details of the pollinator passports for the Master Gardener Booth and Educational Station on the pollinator walk. Christy said that she is opening the evening volunteer shifts for the fair to HMGs. Pattie said that Christy is doing her usual excellent job in coordinating the volunteers. Pattie said she will pick up the native plants and mulch for the display in front of the Natural Resources Building at the fair. Additional native plants will be displayed in the MG booth. The schedule for set-up on Thursday, September 26, was changed to include time for setting up the Natural Resources display. Christy reminded the Board that MG college is coming up and that the HMGA will host the February 2020, VMGA meeting.

Doris Gullotta, Scotchtown, reported that she is planning a planting day in October, and will send out a request for replacement plants that will be needed.

Doris Gullotta, Nominating Committee, stated that an email was sent to all MGs, saying that anyone interested in running for an elected office or other position on the Board is invited to volunteer or make recommendations by contacting Doris. Doris said that two additional volunteers are needed for the committee. Christy volunteered to serve. Buz and Emily will not be running this year.

Pattie reminded the Board that the next BOD meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2019, at the HEFC. The September meeting of the HMGA Board of Directors was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Wayne Bryant
Secretary