

Hanover Master Gardener Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Hanover Evangelical Friends Church
October 21, 2019

Minutes

Pattie Bland, President, called the meeting to order at 6:28 p.m., and confirmed a quorum.

The reading of the minutes of the September 16, 2019, BOD meeting was waived. There was a correction requested to the minutes as previously distributed, and approval was tabled until the next meeting.

Pat Reyes, Treasurer, presented the financial report through September 30, 2019. Pat stated that she had reimbursed Betty Jane Hughes for the cost of website upgrades. The financial report was approved pending review and will be attached to the file copy of the minutes.

Angelette Pryor, Volunteer Coordinator, unveiled the long-awaited new tablecloths. She stated that a Hanover citizens committee, appointed by the Hanover Board of Supervisors, is planning assorted celebrations in recognition of the 300th anniversary of the forming of Hanover County. Signature events will be held at Patrick Henry's Scotchtown on May 30, 2020; Ashland's Strawberry Faire on June 6, 2020; the Hanover Tomato Festival on July 11, 2020; and a culminating celebration at Hanover Courthouse on October 17, 2020. Financial support and volunteers will be needed, and partnerships will be sought with many local organizations and businesses. Angelette reported that HMGA has received a letter of thanks from Kathleen Reed for our donation in support of MG College. She reported that she sent an email on October 16 to all MGs to spread the word about the upcoming 2020 Hanover MG training classes to 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. Open House will be on October 24, 2019, at Woodside Farm. Angelette stated that Laura is interviewing today for the Support Staff position. She said the hourly 4-H Assistant position has been posted.

Pattie Bland, President, stated that Barb Sawyer has returned some HMGA records she had been storing. Pattie stated that she would purchase storage bins so that they could be placed in the storage shed. Betty Jane Hughes stated that she would explore the possibility of transferring these records to the computer. Pattie stated that the BOD had approved the purchase and planting of a tree at Unity Christ Church of Bon Air in the memory of MG Ayer Chamberlin, and that the project should be completed. Pattie will contact Joanne Einsmann at the church to discuss the project. Wayne Bryant and Pat Reyes volunteered to help make this happen. Pattie discussed adding an annual donation to MG College to the HMGA budget for 2020 and asked the BOD to be thinking about additional budget updates that might be needed. Pattie discussed meeting times and locations for 2020. She suggested that if we could move some meetings to daylight hours, especially in the winter, attendance might be improved. Ed Wall suggested the Atlee Library as a possible location. Juanita will check with the HEFC to see if we might have earlier meetings there. Pattie said she would also check around for additional locations.

Ginny Nicholas, HMGA Meetings, stated she would welcome suggestions and ideas for topics and speakers for next year. She suggested a discussion on botanical art for the February General Membership meeting and is planning a project fair for the March member- led meeting. Richard Wood

and Jane White will discuss “Garden Helpers in the Air and Underground - Bats and Worms” at the November 4, 2019, member-led meeting. Kathleen Wellington, from Green Springs MG Group, will speak on “Therapeutic Gardening” at the December 2, 2019, General Membership meeting.

Emily Gianfortoni/Linda Hazelwood, Advanced Land Care Steward, reported that there were no recent home visits. Emily stated that there is a possible visit to Pole Green Elementary School. She has sent them an email to clarify what they are looking for and how HMGs can help. She is awaiting a reply. She stated that she needs to schedule another project meeting. She said the Help Desk is slow.

Betty Jane Hughes, Communications, reported she received the last update needed to complete upgrades to the HMGA website/hosting account, data storage domain, public interface program, firewall, and monthly backup project that she was working on. Betty Jane stated that Nikki-Dee Ray and Ed Wall can be seen on the HMGA website and Facebook, judging tomatoes (for taste) at the State Fair.

Ed Wall, HGS, visited each library in person to complete the “final” schedule, which he distributed to the group. He said that there are some new presenters this year which he hopes will improve turnout. Angelette issued a brief outline of the program that will be published in the local newspaper.

Christy Brennan/Pattie Bland, State Fair, stated that this was a very challenging year. Christy said the pollinator passports and the pollinator walk fell through the cracks. She stated that the poster of native plants she had planned on using was missing. She is going to push VT to replace it with two more. She said that there was a lot of turmoil at VT this year with staffing, and VT provided little in support for the fair. Kathleen Reed is the new MG State Coordinator, and Christy hopes things will settle down soon. Many MG units were represented. Pattie said that Christy did an excellent job in coordinating the volunteers. Betty Jane is working to compile the volunteer hours, but the contact list for the Green Springs Unit is missing. Christy stated that MG College was held in Norfolk, September 19-22. It was well-received, but most people preferred having it at VT in Blacksburg. Christy reminded the BOD that HMGA will host the February 2020, VMGA meeting.

Buz Sawyer, Plant Clinics, was not in attendance. He sent his report to Pattie that stated the PC season is over and he is working on the numbers for a report to the BOD.

Doris Gullotta, Nominating Committee, stated that the Committee, including Linda Hazelwood, Betty Jane Hughes, and Christy Brennan met today to discuss nominees for the BOD. Anyone interested in running for an elected office or other position on the Board is invited to volunteer or make recommendations by contacting any member of the Committee. Doris said that two additional volunteers are needed for the BOD. Buz and Emily will not be running this year. A slate of candidates will be presented at the next BOD meeting.

Pattie reminded the Board that the next BOD meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2019, at the HEFC. The October meeting of the HMGA Board of Directors was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Pattie Bland, Ginny Nicholas, Pat Reyes, Wayne Bryant, Doris Gullotta, Linda Hazelwood, Emily Gianfortoni, Betty Jane Hughes, Lisa Willis, Christy Brennan, Angelette Pryor, Ed Wall, Bill Fleming, and Juanita Wrenn. The attendance sheet will be attached to the file copy of these minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Bryant
Secretary