

Hanover Master Gardener Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Virtual Via Zoom
June 15, 2020

Minutes

Pattie Bland, President, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m., and confirmed a quorum.

The reading of the minutes of the May 18, 2020, Board of Directors meeting was waived. The minutes were approved as previously distributed.

Pat Reyes, Treasurer, was not present but submitted her financial report to Pattie. Pattie said that all funds for tee shirts that were ordered by MGs have now been handed over to Pat.

Angelette Pryor, Volunteer Coordinator, reported that over 900 people have signed up for MG College, some from other states. VT will offer Zoom practice sessions on June 17 and June 24. Angelette stated that she is also available for one-on-one practice sessions. Christy Brennan, Betty Jane Hughes, Pattie, and Angelette put together and submitted the “Brag Board” for MG College. VT has formed a planning committee to discuss procedures during the current crisis but has not issued any new updates. Angelette stated that she needs a group of about six MGs to start planning the 2021 MG training course. She said that a decision needs to be made on dates and a location for the training to reserve a location. She can check with the Social Services Building to see if it is available. The 2021 classes will be held in the evening. Jane White volunteered to serve on the committee. Angelette stated that she has a modest gift for MG volunteers when there is an opportunity for a volunteer recognition program. She stated that turnout for the Virtual HGS program has been good, and many people were viewing the recorded sessions. She stated that the required MG volunteer hours for 2020 have been forgiven, but not the 8 hours of CE. She will work with any individual to help them achieve the needed CE. Angelette stated that the Henrico MGs have joined Hanover MGs in presenting HGS programs. The HGS programs will continue for the foreseeable future. Angelette reported that a social gathering/brown bag lunch with the interns was held on Friday, June 12. Additional gatherings will be held on Fridays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Angelette requested that the HMGA purchase 2-3 webcams for use by the HMGs and at the office. Pattie moved that the HMGA purchase the webcams and Susan Doran seconded the motion. The motion was discussed and approved.

Ginny Nicholas, HMGA Meetings, reported that Christy Brennan will speak on “Gardeners and Produce Safety” at the July 9 Member-led meeting. Bill Fleming will speak at the August 6 Member-led meeting on “Origins of Soil and Plant Life.” The General Membership meeting/picnic/tour is scheduled for September 20 at the Freckled Flower Farm, where Kelly Waldrop will speak. Ginny will also book Montpelier Park for the event in case of rain. Betty Jane Hughes will speak at the October 5 Member-led meeting on “Working with the Public.” Marcie Townsend will speak at the November 2 Member-led meeting on the “Potager Gardens.” Dave Slack from the Department of Forestry will speak on “Native Trees and Their Benefit to Wildlife” at the December 3 General Membership meeting.

Val Kish, Help Desk, reported that the remote Help Desk is working smoothly. A press release has been issued to remind the public that the Extension Office is still open for business. Julie Givler and Val suggested a column in the local newspaper discussing garden topics, and will discuss with Laura.

Becky Watson, Educational Grants, was not present but submitted her report to each member of the Board. The Grants Committee received an online Roddey Jones Memorial Grant application from the New Song United Methodist Church in Mechanicsville. The purpose of their request is to build a community garden in order to provide food for community members who have lost their jobs or who have fallen on hard times, and to provide a safe place for their community to come to the garden to learn. The grant application was reviewed by four of the committee members and all recommended funding of the project. Mary Wagner said that she lives nearby and volunteered to do a site visit (to be our MG Partner). Pattie moved to approve the grant request in the amount of \$500. The motion was seconded, discussed, and approved.

Pattie Bland, President, stated that the reprinting of the “Native Plants for Virginia’s Capital Region” guides has been scheduled. They should be shipped in late June and will need to be stored offsite.

Susan Doran, Plant Clinics, reported that things are on hold and she is just waiting to restart the clinics.

Doris Gullotta, Scotchtown, stated that she held a workday at the gardens on May 27. She said the big gardens are fine. The vegetable garden was cleaned up and some sunflowers were planted. Doris said there have been lots of compliments on the garden. She said she needs to go through the gardens and label the plants and make a list for visitors. She will post pictures of Scotchtown on VMS.

Richard Wood, Youth Activities, reported that volunteer opportunities for MGs with Parks and Recreation have been canceled for the summer. The “Bug Bizarre” is still scheduled for September 12. He will get with Laura to fill out the required forms for booths at the event.

Christy Brennan, VMGA, was not in attendance but submitted her report to Pattie. Pattie reported that the VMGA held a virtual meeting on June 13. She reminded MGs that it is time to submit dues for the VMGA. Dues can be paid online at VMGA.net. VMGA is starting a Speakers Bureau with a list of speakers and topics that will be available to all units. VMGA is always looking for articles and postings for the VMGA newsletter. Please consider writing and submitting an article. MGs discussed how units are keeping in touch during the social distancing. Most units are using social media, and some are holding brown bag lunch sessions. These units are holding classes or sharing information on topics including select plants and garden pests. MG training continues online. Visit the VMGA website to purchase merchandise. An Education Committee survey of education needs will be sent to all MGs through VMS. VMGA is planning on sponsoring International MG College at the \$10,000 level.

The Board was reminded that (virtual) MG College is June 25-28. The next BOD meeting will be on July 20. The June 15, 2020, meeting of the HMGA Board of Directors was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Present: Pattie Bland, Ginny Nicholas, Wayne Bryant, Doris Gullotta, Lisa Willis, Julie Givler, Jane White, Bill Fleming, Val Kish, Angelette Pryor, Susan Doran, and Richard Wood. The VMS Event sheet will be attached to the file copy of these minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Bryant
Secretary