

Hanover Master Gardener Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Virtual Via Zoom
July 20, 2020

Minutes

Pattie Bland, President, called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m., and confirmed a quorum.

The reading of the minutes of the June 15, 2020, Board of Directors meeting was waived. The minutes were approved as previously distributed.

Pat Reyes, Treasurer, was not present but informed Pattie that the Roddy Jones Memorial grant check, in the amount of \$500, has been sent to New Song United Methodist Church.

Angelette Pryor, Volunteer Coordinator, reported that on July 9, Laura Maxey-Nay sent out Phase 3 guidelines for all volunteer activities. All project coordinators should check with Laura beforehand. Angelette reported that the HMGA purchase of 3 webcams has been completed. One webcam has been mounted on the Help Desk Computer and one is currently on loan to Ed Wall for his HGS presentation this Thursday. She stated that the required MG volunteer hours for 2020 have been waived, but not the 8 hours of CE. She will work with any individual to help them achieve the needed CE. Angelette stated that participation for HGS last week was down after a two-week layoff, but HGS is getting lots of viewers of the recorded sessions. MGs have received some viewer questions from Facebook. Henrico MGs have joined Hanover MGs in presenting HGS programs that are scheduled at least through August. The Home Visit program is on hold. An HGS program on “Lawn Debris and Creative Ways to Recycle It” is in works. Angelette reported that Hanover, Henrico, Chesterfield, and possibly additional MG units are in the planning stages to join efforts to offer community MG training via Zoom. There will be a Hanover MG training meeting Wednesday and a regional meeting on Thursday. Angelette said that there has not yet been any feedback from MG College but will advise when she has the information.

Pattie Bland, President, stated that the “Native Plants for Virginia’s Capital Region” guides should be shipped this week or next, and will be stored temporarily at the cannery. Pattie reported that many of the goals for 2020, discussed earlier in the year, have been put on hold. MG volunteers have gone above and beyond their goal to make improvements to the office native plant garden. Ginny Nicholas stated that she would like to expand the office garden. Another goal, to have an MG column in the local newspaper, will be reached when the first article is published on Wednesday. Pattie said that during social gathering/brown bag lunches on Fridays, there have been discussions on ways to expand MG outreach. Haylie Zapantis has offered to set up an Instagram account for the HMGA and link it to the Facebook account. Pattie will check with the HMGA Facebook Administrator Buz Sawyer and Betty Jane Hughes, Communications. Any information posted on the account will need to be approved. VT VCE currently has an Instagram account with almost 1,000 followers. Angelette said that VT might offer some guidance. Pattie asked if the Board wanted to move ahead with setting up an account. The Board voted in favor.

Ginny Nicholas, HMGA Meetings, reported that 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. Angelette stated that she will coordinate with Ginny to schedule a MG meeting in January for Civil Rights and Risk Management training.

Val Kish, Help Desk, reported that the remote Help Desk is working smoothly. She reported total contacts for April, May, and June for 2020 at 100. This is down slightly down from 114 in 2019 and 111 in 2018. She said the public is becoming aware that the VCE and the Help Desk are still available. She said that the monthly gardening column may help spread the word even more.

Beckey Watson, Educational Grants, was not present but submitted her report to Pattie. The New Song United Methodist Church in Mechanicsville is grateful for the \$500 Rodney Jones Memorial Grant. They are growing vegetables in raised beds and donating to those in need. They also intend to use the community gardens to host educational opportunities. Mary Wagner did a site visit on June 25, took some pictures, and met with Katie Payne, the Executive Director of New Song. Beckey expressed her gratitude to Mary for partnering with New Song. Beckey requested an HMGA Grant sign to be displayed in the garden. Angelette located one in the office. Ginny will pick it up and coordinate with Mary on getting it installed. Beckey would appreciate any suggestions for Katie’s request for gardening programs for youth. She sent her the “Eat a Rainbow” activity sheet and a link to our website’s teacher resource page. She has also provided information on the final report requested for the grant project.

Susan Doran, Plant Clinics, reported that things are on hold and she is just waiting to restart the clinics. Pattie stated that the State Fair is still on schedule for late September. Angelette reminded Susan that she should check with Laura on following the Phase 3 guidelines as there is a PC component at the fair.

Doris Gullotta, Scotchtown, reported that she held a workday at the gardens on July 8. She said she will schedule three more workdays later this year. Doris said there have been lots of compliments on the garden. She said the gardens are now stressed from lack of water and something ate the sunflowers she planted. Doris reported that the Boy Scouts have done a lot of cleaning up around the grounds. She has posted pictures of Scotchtown on VMS.

Richard Wood, Youth Activities, reported that 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. It was suggested that he might coordinate with Doris and the Boy Scouts on the Scotchtown project.

The Board was reminded that the next BOD meeting will be on August 17. The July 20, 2020, meeting of the HMGA Board of Directors was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Present: Pattie Bland, Ginny Nicholas, Wayne Bryant, Doris Gullotta, Lisa Willis, Julie Givler, 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