

Hanover Master Gardener Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Hanover Extension Grounds
August 17, 2020

Minutes

Pattie Bland, President, called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m., and confirmed a quorum.

The reading of the minutes of the July 20, 2020, Board of Directors meeting was waived. The minutes were approved as previously distributed.

Pat Reyes, Treasurer, presented the financial report from April through July. The financial report was accepted, pending review, and will be attached to the file copy of these minutes.

Angelette Pryor, Volunteer Coordinator, reported that on July 9, Laura Maxey-Nay sent out Phase 3 guidelines for all volunteer activities. A copy of these guidelines was included with the agenda for this meeting. All project coordinators and volunteers should become familiar with these guidelines. Angelette stated that VT-VCE employees are reporting back to work in person, just as VT reopens for students. Angelette reported that Hanover, Henrico, Chesterfield, and the City of Richmond MG units are joining efforts to offer community 2021 MG training via Zoom. Classes will be recorded so that they may be viewed when convenient to the trainees. Angelette stated that all HGS presentations are recorded and are receiving hundreds of views at “wonky” times. She said that Henrico is presenting this Thursday on “Indoor Plants.” She said new topics are needed for September and October. She stated that the “Native Plants for Virginia’s Capital Region” guides have been received.

Pattie Bland stated that we should look for ways to get the native plant guides distributed. Linda Hazelwood will check with the libraries to see if they would like to have a copy for their reference libraries. Betty Jane Hughes will post on the HMGA website that the guides are available at the Extension Office. Angelette said that the guides are available in a metal box outside the office door.

Betty Jane Hughes, Communications, had nothing to report. Val Kish suggested that the communications might be divided between internal (communications to MGs) and external (information provided to the public). She stated that one is being done by a committee and the other (newspaper articles) is being done as a project led by Julie Givler. Val stated that she is not sure where Haylie Zapantis’ offer to set up an Instagram account for the HMGA and link it to the Facebook account would come into play. It was suggested that Julie and Haylie could be included on the communications committee so that efforts were not duplicated, and that information provided through newspaper articles to the public was available in several formats and was available to all MGs. Julie stated that three MG columns have been published in the Mechanicsville local newspaper, and another one is in the pipeline. Many members of the Board stated that they do not receive the Mechanicsville local, so they have not seen the articles and a link would be helpful. It was suggested that the articles should be published in the Ashland local as well. Discussions will continue.

Val Kish, Help Desk, reported that the remote Help Desk is holding its own. She reported total contacts in June and July at 94. This is up from 78 in June and July 2019. She said the public is becoming aware that the VCE and the Help Desk are available. Val hopes to be working with interns on Help Desk questions soon.

Ginny Nicholas, HMGA Meetings, reported that the General Membership meeting/picnic/tour scheduled for September 20 at the Freckled Flower Farm, has been canceled. Discussions will take place to consider holding the meeting via Zoom (with or without a speaker). Betty Jane Hughes, scheduled to speak at the October 5 Member-led meeting on “Working with the Public,” discussed postponing her talk until we are again working with the public. (Ginny will look for another speaker.) 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. Ginny is coordinating with Angelette to schedule a MG meeting in January for Civil Rights and Risk Management training.

Susan Doran, Plant Clinics, stated that last year HMGs provided volunteers for a Plant Clinic for the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden PlantFest, and inquired if we would do so again this year (September 18-19). Angelette stated that LGBG was not sure if a PC would be included at the PlantFest. Hanover provided volunteers last year because Henrico was busy with the “Bug Bizarre.” Angelette said that the “Bug Bizarre” scheduled for September 12, 2020, has been canceled.

Doris Gullotta, Scotchtown, reported that she is holding a workday at the gardens today and invited anyone who wanted to volunteer to follow her after the meeting. She said they will be removing the Japanese hollies and replacing them with native hydrangeas. She will schedule another planting day and a clean-up day in the future. Doris, Nominating Committee Chair, stated that elections will most likely have to be done electronically this year. The committee will send out a request to all HMGA members for nominations and/or recommendations of members to serve on the Board.

Christy Brennan, VMGA, sent her report to Pattie: On 08/14/2020 The State EMG Office, in collaboration with the Virginia Master Gardener Association (VMGA), has put together a continuing education needs survey for our current Extension Master Gardeners. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey. Your responses will help inform and guide upcoming education opportunities offered through both the State Office and VMGA. Continuing Education Survey: https://vce.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e3g5bRYUuJrkrvn
MG College has re-opened registration until August 31, 2020. Cost is \$50. VMGA now offers funding to help sponsor unit educational needs (Education@VMGA.net). There is a contest to design the T-shirt logo to next year’s International MG College:
<https://www.internationalmastergardener.com/2020/05/18/design-contest/>
Please add the MG State office to host zoom events that can be shared to a larger audience: devon35v@vt.edu. Post unit events by contacting: calendar@vmga.net.

The Board was reminded that the next BOD meeting will be on September 21, 2020. The August 17, 2020, meeting of the HMGA Board of Directors was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Present: Pattie Bland, Ginny Nicholas, Pat Reyes, Wayne Bryant, Doris Gullotta, Linda Hazelwood, Betty Jane Hughes, Lisa Willis, Julie Givler, Jane White, Val Kish, Angelette Pryor, Susan Doran, and Juanita Wrenn. The sign-in sheet will be attached to the file copy of these minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Bryant
Secretary