

Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Nov 10, 2016

Vice President, **Jeanne Pavero**, called the meeting to order at 8:55am. In attendance were Sonia Smith, Amanda Kiel, Merry MacBarb, Gloria Rapp, Hank Rapp, Jeanne Pavero, Lynn Eriquez, Sam Marshall and Anne Coleman.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jeanne announced the proposed new board members for 2017: President – **Jeanne Pavero**, Vice President – **Mary Dixon**, and Treasurer – **Hank Rapp**. **Anne Coleman** and **Dotti Hunkele** will continue in their respective positions of Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. **Merry MacBarb** volunteered to chair the Field Trip Committee. The Social Committee is still in need of leadership.

BOARD ACCEPTANCE:

Minutes - The October 2016 Executive Board Meeting minutes submitted by **Anne Coleman** were accepted by the board.

Financial Report – **Merry MacBarb** presented the October Treasurer's report. Two fees for 'Day in the Yard' were refunded due to class cancellation. Non-Taxable Plant Sales yielded over \$2000. Botanical Garden expenses for the rose garden were reimbursed. The Association's ending balance for October was \$42,743.39.

Merry also presented the proposed budget for 2017. Estimates of income for the 'Day in the Yard' program and 'House Calls' were purposely conservative due to an inability to gauge interest year to year. The Botanical Garden expenses included a line item for Garden Expansion. This would primarily fund a safety fence should a children's garden be installed. Scholarship expense was doubled to \$2000. The BCMGVA will fund state membership for all members in good standing. Net Budgeted Income vs. Expense for 2017 is projected to be (\$18,050) with a reserve of \$24,955.

Anne Coleman requested authorization to make a final collection call to the individual who disputed plant sale charges from May. If not resolved she will inform the individual she will not be allowed to make purchases in the future.

The board accepted both the October Treasurer's Report and the Proposed 2017 Budget as submitted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership Committee – **Lynn Eriquez** reported the membership now stands at 89 including the 11 members of the most recent Master Gardener class. **Amanda Kiel** questioned the higher participant number displayed on the NCSU website. Amanda suggested the list be reduced by those members emeritus to more properly reflect the volunteer efforts of the Association. **Sam Marshall** stated this was the method used by all counties, and the state is in charge of the website.

Plant Sale Committee - **Jeanne Pavero** reported on behalf of **Vicki Fuhrmann**. The 2017 Spring and Native Plant Sales are scheduled for April 21-22 and May 19-20 respectively. This is a shift from

Thursday/Friday sales to Friday/Saturday sales in response to plant sale patron feedback. The 2017 Online Plant Sale will begin August 20 and end September 9 with plant pickup September 28-30.

A workday in the Botanical Garden is scheduled for November 18. Divisions and cuttings will be taken for Spring Plant Sale propagation.

Botanical Garden Committee – A new fountain has been installed in the Rose Garden. It was purchased from Merritt Pottery in Elizabethtown, and sits inside the existing ring of landscape blocks of the original pool.

Speakers & Library – **Sonia Smith** has arranged for Tom Ericson of The Transplanted Garden in Wilmington to be the November general meeting speaker. Kent Smith from the NC DOT will speak at the January 2017 meeting. Sonia is pursuing the new director of the Bald Head Island Conservancy for a future engagement.

Social Committee - **Sonia Smith** reported the E-Vites for the Christmas Party on December 8 are ready to send.

EXTENSION COORDINATORS REPORTS AND UPDATES:

Sam Marshall announced **Michele Cousineau** has resigned as Garden Curator and will be moving to Maine. **Jeanne Pavero** read a message from Michele on her departure. The board authorized a gift certificate and cake be presented at the general meeting to show its appreciation. Sam stated the staff will post and advertise for a replacement and hoped to have someone in place by February or March.

Sam spoke about the Program Evaluation he sought in July and October. He projects 2017 will be a maintenance year in which existing successful programs can be honed and expanded without taxing the volunteer membership.

Amanda Kiel requested more educational opportunities for the membership. Sam offered to prepare more in depth topics that can be used at the general meeting on a regular basis in place of an outside speaker. **Sonia Smith** reiterated her suggestion the BCMGVA draw on its own population to present meaningful talks at monthly meetings which has been successful at other counties.

Sam reported he applied Fipronil at the greenhouse, the hoop house and the Live Oak Garden area to control the fire ant problem. He asked all to alert him of new or active nests.

NEW BUSINESS:

Several groups have requested tours of the Botanical Garden in the spring. Many of the requested dates conflict with the Plant Sales. It was suggested the groups be combined and tour on the same day.

There will be a Santa Seed Swap at the December Christmas party.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15am.

Submitted by Anne Coleman
Recording Secretary