

Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President **Maryann Horgan** at 9:00am. In attendance were Merry MacBarb, Amanda Kiel, Sonia Smith, Fred Mina, Maryann Horgan, Jeanne Pavero, Vicki Fuhrmann, Kay Swenson, Lynn Eriquez, Jenny Newton and Anne Coleman.

President's Message President Hogan welcomed newcomers to the Executive Board and wished everyone a Happy New Year. Handouts provided included a calendar and a listing of the current BCMGVA Board members with email contacts.

Minutes The November 2015 Executive Board Meeting minutes were accepted by the board.

Financial Report **Merry MacBarb** reviewed the financial reports for November and December, both described as quiet months. Expenses included travel and education charges as well as money spent for the boardwalk repair and equipment replacement. The reports were accepted by the Board. Current balance as of December 31, 2015 was \$24,158.62.

The 2016 budget was presented with Income of \$47,650 projected against Expenses of \$60,700. With a second 'Day in the Yard' planned and an extended season for 'House Calls' it is projected the income figure will increase. Treasurer MacBarb cautioned that \$16,000 must be available at year-end for the following year's plant sale purchases. The final budget will be posted on the Weekly Weeder for membership.

Annual Dues forms will be posted on the website prior to the general meeting for membership to complete.

OLD BUSINESS:

Brunswick Community College (BCC) Scholarship – **Maryann Horgan** has completed the college's scholarship form for submission. The criteria stipulated by BCMGVA for the needs-based scholarship are the recipient must be a Horticultural or Turf Management student, a resident of Brunswick County, a second year student, and maintain a 2.5GPA. The \$1000 scholarship will be disbursed \$500 per semester, with the ability of the funds to be split between one or more students. The recipient will be asked to attend at least one of our general meetings annually.

Auditing - An accountant, Duncan Hilbern, has been contacted to provide accounting and auditing services for the association. A second CPA is to be contacted, and one of the two will be chosen to provide the services needed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership - **Lynn Eriquez** stated BCMGVA currently has 76 members. Annual dues of \$10 will be collected at the January general meeting.

Plant Sale Committee - Some plugs were potted in the prior week with more deliveries expected soon. Notice will be given so those wishing to earn volunteer hours will be able to participate.

Vicki Fuhrmann announced the spring plant sale days will be April 14-15 (Thursday and Friday) and May 20-21 (Friday and Saturday). She would like to see which days prove more popular with customers.

A separate section at the sale will offer items for sale provided by Master Gardeners as pass-along plants. Vickie will ask for a volunteer at the general meeting to lead this program.

Botanical Garden Committee - The Saint James Garden Club has been invited to tour the Botanical Garden on April 26. The Brunswick County Newcomers Club is coming May 9 or 10th. Volunteers will be needed to 'man' stations throughout the garden with brief informational presentations. The fountain in the rose garden and the irrigation systems need to be fully operational in time for the visit.

Maryann Horgan announced a Garden Party for the 2015 and 2016 'House Calls' participants is scheduled for either 9/23 or 10/7 in the Botanical Garden. New Garden Welcome Signs will display our use of some of their donated funds.

Hardscape Committee - **Fred Mina** has added cross-bracing to several tables in the hoop house to improve their stability. He is planning a work schedule for the outdoor work needed to complete the decking, replace the seating and repair the arbor façade.

The need for a Master Gardener shed was discussed. Its purpose would enable more control over the Master Gardener tools and supplies. Fred stated it would probably be better and cheaper if it was site built rather than purchased. He will discuss further with **Michelle Cousineau**.

The large shed that is used for 'check-out' at the Plant Sales needs cleaning up. Fred will contact Restitution to help with this.

Webmaster - **Amanda Kiel** stated there are new pages being added to the website that will be good resources for 'House Calls' and anyone needing information for articles and speaking engagements. **Vicki Fuhrmann** has produced a page on pollinators, **Mary Dixon** has written a page on Edible Gardens and **Ellie Bierman** is working on a Rose page.

Amanda reported we have an out of date, poorly designed Facebook page. The page will be shut down. Also the NCSU website needs more current information. Amanda will contact **Sam Marshall** to get it updated.

The Plant Sale Reminder service has proven to be very popular with customers.

NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Speaking Engagement/Written Articles Policy – Any written article or proposed speech to be delivered as a Master Gardener needs to be peer reviewed by either **Sam Marshall** or **Tom Woods**. This will help to ensure quality as well as reduce a duplication of efforts. **Maryann Horgan** suggested moving ahead with **Sam Marshall** to establish a Speakers Bureau. Members planning to address other groups will be able to 'try out' their speeches on the general membership or at 'Brown Bag' lunches. Attendees will be asked to critique for content and delivery. **Jeanne Pavero** will act as coordinator for speaking engagements and written articles. She will also liaise with staff to promote coordination and improved communication.

A rewards program called 'Smiles' sponsored by Amazon will be explained and discussed at the general meeting. Becky's Bulbs rewards program provided approximately \$130 in funds to the association from the fall on-line plant sale.

A prototype tri-fold brochure and one page informational sheet were produced by **Amanda Kiel** and **Vicki Fuhrmann** that can be used when meeting with groups. They included a calendar of the year's events with additional information on 'Day in the Yard', 'House Calls' and Plant Sales.

David Barkley will offer a pruning workshop in February, date not determined.

With the labeling in the Botanical Garden almost complete, **Amanda Kiel** proposed a couple of mandatory workdays to be required of the membership to thoroughly clean and mulch. After discussion it was decided to first assess the results of the budgeted 'Spring Cleanup'. An April 1st workday to spruce up the Botanical Garden prior to scheduled visits was suggested.

Maryann Horgan is working with **Michelle Cousineau** on three documents covering Botanical Garden protocol. One is for assessing a problem and its suggested solution. Another governs how to propose a new garden. The third provides guidelines for planning a new garden.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35am.

Submitted by Anne Coleman
Recording Secretary