

Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association

General Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President **Jeanne Pavero** at 9am with 31 members present. Refreshments for the meeting were supplied by **Diane Frederes**.

President's Message

President Pavero thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and reminded the members there is no July meeting. The on-line plant sale is scheduled for August. Jeanne thanked **Jim Meyer** and **Gayle Pfeiffer** for joining her in hosting the Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department on June 20.

Membership Acceptance

The Minutes from the May 2017 meeting submitted by **Anne Coleman** were accepted with no revisions.

The May Treasurer's Report prepared by **Hank Rapp** was approved by the membership. Ending Balance for the month was \$46,321.84. Hank stated the report will be available monthly on the Weekly Weeder and therefore he will no longer present the report at the General Meeting.

Amanda Kiel inquired about the Gardening by the Month book and its associated income and expense. **Mary Dixon** stated 300 copies have been printed, and the association has received \$1500 in sales. The cost per book is approximately \$7. Members of DIY classes and House Call clients receive a copy as part of our service so it is not possible to equate the cost of production with income received. Mary will begin to document for recordkeeping purposes the allocation of books sold and books provided gratis as part of other services.

Committee Reports

Membership – **Lynn Eriquez** reminded members to pick up their discount cards.

Plant Sale Committee – **Vicki Fuhrmann** requested members keep the potting shed clean and practice good 'Potting Shed Etiquette' to avoid soil born disease and insect infestations. The start date of the August on-line plant sale will be determined at the July 7 meeting she will attend with Gardens Direct, a company owned by Johnson's Nursery.

Liaison Committee – **Donna Coulson** reported on the annual state meeting. Any outside communications must include the NCSU Bar, but internal communications can use other elements. NCSU attorneys are working on the ownership issue for any writings generated by Master Gardeners. A trip to Costa Rica will occur February 22, 2018.

Publicity Committee- **Donna Coulson** announced the DIY fall class in Leland is full.

Webmaster – The 'Weekly Weeder' is emailed to 127 people. **Amanda Kiel** stated the past issue was opened by 57 recipients, and the survey in the newsletter had a response by 22 people. The purpose of the survey was to determine if the newsletter is necessary and if so if it could be improved. Membership at the meeting confirmed the need for the Weekly Weeder.

Extension Coordinators Reports and Updates

Anita Handler reviewed the May Restitution activity. The month began with 13 clients, added 6 and successfully released 6 leaving a month end client total of 13. She encouraged Master Gardeners to volunteer with this service. The metal shelves on the backside of the potting shed will be removed for safety issues, and Anita requested the water gauges in the hoop house be emptied periodically to avoid mosquito problems.

Shawn Lennon stated he placed gravel in the drainage areas around the Botanical Garden.

New Business

The current 3-4 year old John Deere lawn mower owned by the county for the exclusive use by the Botanical Garden has experienced significant down time due to

repairs. These repairs are made by the county repair shop and take typically 2 weeks to return the equipment. President Pavero stated the Executive Board voted to spend up to \$6000 for the purchase of a new lawn mower to be owned by the county but for the exclusive use by the curator of the Botanical Garden. A motion to approve this expenditure failed 7 to 25. A new motion was made by **Merry MacBarb** to transport the existing lawn mower to a John Deere dealership for an estimate of repairs if the county will allow its removal. If the county will not authorize this activity then the membership would agree to spend up to \$6000 for a new lawn mower to be used by the Botanical Garden and owned by the county. A hand count was taken, and this motion failed 8 to 19. A third motion was made by **Bob Gelinas** to authorize the expenditure of up to \$1500 in 2017 to repair the existing lawn mower at a John Deere dealership. This motion passed the membership.

Mary Dixon announced the beginning of the Pepper Trials. There are 10 hot peppers and 10 sweet peepers included in the trial and members are allowed to take up to 5 of each.

A House Calls Meeting was scheduled following the General Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35am.

Meeting Speaker: Phil Ricks, Agronomist

Submitted by Anne Coleman
Recording Secretary