

Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2016

Maryann Horgan called the meeting to order at 9:05am. In attendance were Merry MacBarb, Jenny Newton, Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman, Maryann Horgan, Amanda Kiel, Fred Mina, Tom Woods, Sonia Smith and Anne Coleman.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Community visitations to the Botanical Garden have been very successful with many voicing intentions of return visits. Twenty-two members of the St. James Garden Club and 30 members from the Brunswick County Newcomers Club came for an educational session followed by a guided tour of the garden.

Michele Cousineau led a group of approximately 60 people from Compass Point Development on a guided tour. The next visit, from Osher Life Long Learning Institute (OLLI), is scheduled for September 23.

BOARD ACCEPTANCE

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

Financial Report The monthly Treasurer's Report for April was submitted by **Merry MacBarb**. The plant sale net income year to date is approximately \$5000. Once final entries have been recorded it is expected the April sale will have grossed over \$20,000.

The \$1000 scholarship donation to Brunswick Community College posted, and **Maryann Horgan** noted receipt of a thank you letter from the college which will be read at the general meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

The association's \$100 contribution to Mason Boling, the fifteen year old 4-H student, who will attend a summer horticultural camp was revisited. It was decided the amount of the contribution would remain the same despite the camp's tuition increase to \$550.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Corresponding Secretary – **Jenny Newton** sent a thank you note to last month's speaker, Tracy Skrabal. She will also read a thank you note received from the Saint James Garden Club at the next general meeting.

Liaison Committee to NCEMGVA – **Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman** announced the next meeting is in August, and she will meet with Donna Coulson as a possible replacement for her liaison duties.

Plant Sale Committee– **Amanda Kiel** stated the committee is ready for the Native Plant Seminar and Sale.

Botanical Garden Committee – **Maryann Horgan** contacted team leaders for the Ornamental Grass Garden and the Japanese Garden. The Ornamental Grass team has not met, but the Japanese Garden team will conduct research during the summer months for fall planning.

Hardscape – **Fred Mina** reported Bob Kiley has finished all touch-up work on the hardscape projects. The work was completed under budget, and Fred stated they will be looking at further projects. The picnic tables on the new Botanical Garden deck should be moved possibly to a site behind the Birch Tree Shade Garden.

Speakers & Library – **Sonia Smith** announced either **Mary Dixon** or **Tom Woods** will be the speaker at the May general meeting. She contacted Andrew Fairbanks of the Halyburton Park in Wilmington as a speaker on controlled burns for a summer meeting. She will also attempt to have a speaker from the early days of the BCMGVA join us for the 20th anniversary celebration in September.

EXTENSION COORDINATORS' REPORTS AND UPDATES

Tom Woods reported Restitution has been cleaning out discarded items around the hoop house, and a door on one of the extension trailers still needs repair.

With the increasing work load on the volunteers in the Botanical Garden Tom proposed hiring out the mulching, edging and mowing jobs. It was agreed he will conduct a search for a service provider.

Additionally he proposed the garden in front of the gas pumps be reduced to zero maintenance by staff and volunteers also due to work load. The board agreed to reduce coverage of this area by BCMGVA.

As of mid-May the House Calls program is scheduled to conduct 46 visits in 2016. Requests are tapering in some areas, but other places are becoming more active. While the program is well received and a good additional stream of income Tom suggested a mid-year workshop to hone report writing skills.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Horgan announced a June 18 Health Fair will be held at the Government Complex, and the organizers requested a Master Gardener manned booth. Volunteers will be requested at the general meeting.

The Herbs and Edible Flowers booklet produced by the association needs updating in style and content. Volunteers are needed to complete this task.

Amanda Kiel suggested a 'look-back' at the association's expenditures for the past 5 to 8 years to understand where and how successfully the funds have been spent. It would also help in the preparation for the fall budgeting process. **Merry MacBarb** has the past 3 years available, and former treasurers will be contacted for earlier information.

A discussion exploring better methods of publicity for the BCMGVA brought out several suggestions. To increase our exposure in the printed press informational newspaper columns were considered. An electronic newsletter to the 500+ members of our plant sale e-mail list was also suggested. It was recommended the sign in the Botanical Garden crediting a former sponsor be removed and replaced with a BCMGVA sponsor's sign.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10am.

Submitted by Anne Coleman
Recording Secretary