

Henrico Master Gardener Association Board Meeting

Minutes: October 7, 2009

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Ann Dutton at 1:02 p.m..

Minutes: The previous month's minutes were sent to and approved by Board members and committee chairs.

Reports from Committees and Officers

Treasurer: Barry Hayes reported that we have \$3,532.28 in the checking account. Harvest Fair revenues were \$2637.00 (donations \$750.00; vendors \$484.00; classes \$890.00; green elephant sale \$273.00; raffle \$240.00) and total expenses were \$1313.51 for a profit of \$1323.49. There may be a few minor expenses still outstanding. Beverly Cochrane reported that the Association's CDs, which will mature in October, are worth about \$3000.00.

1st Vice President: Erica Gilliam reported that the October meeting will feature Norie Burnet and a Powerpoint presentation on her moss garden. There will be a field trip to Norie's garden on October 21 at 1:00 p.m. Erica provided Board members with background information on Norie and a list of publications featuring her gardening.

The November meeting (Nov 18th) speaker will be A. J. Griffin who is head horticulturist at the Virginia Capital.

December is the annual reception and Erica has a full calendar planned for next year.

2nd Vice President: Ann Dutton reported for Grace Harrison that the advanced training committee is meeting with Lisa Sanderson to finalize training for next year and that they will have a report in November.

Corresponding Secretary: Theresa Hawkes sent thank you notes to John Sartin, Jack Kelzer, Elaine Olay and Willie Lewis for their work on the Harvest Fair. A thank you note will be sent to Norie Burnet after next week's meeting.

Master Gardening Training: Ann Dutton reported for Jim Smith that the 2010 class schedule is set and that all speakers are confirmed. Dates have been set for the mentor/ mentee luncheon and for facilitator training. The committee needs experienced Master Gardeners to volunteer to be mentors and they also need volunteers to be facilitators for training sessions.

Helpline: Ruth Wilson reported for Gwen Hipp that the helpline problems we have experienced could be related to the Harvest Fair. The problems have occurred the last two years and may be because Master Gardeners can get hours working on the Fair instead of volunteering for the Helpline. Problems with open dates still exist for October

and November. Ann Dutton will arrange a meeting of the team who will work on these problems. Currently the team is Ann Dutton, Judy Burton, Peggy Lowry, Gwen Hipp and Ruth Wilson.

Communications: Jody Taggart reported that she's not sure how many people are visiting the web site. Please send her committee information or anything else that would be beneficial for the site.

Service, Recognition and Historical: Joyce Brannon shared the State Master Gardening "August News from Across the State" which includes a paragraph written by Beverly Cochrane about Henrico Master Gardeners. She had several other articles and pictures to share. She continues to encourage all Master Gardeners to turn in time sheets. There are still several Master Gardeners that have turned in no hours for 2009.

S.M.A.R.T. Lawns:

JMG: Faye Derkits reported that they participated in the Virginia Garden Festival, the Harvest Fair and the State Fair in September. The State Fair event drew about 644 people. This Friday, Faye will visit John Marshall School to discuss working with special needs children.

Special Events: Judy Burton reported that the State Fair night shifts were not completely filled. Everything else went smoothly with the Fair.

Finance:

Hospitality:

Membership: Beverly Cochrane reported that we currently have 95 members.

Plant Clinics:

Harvest Fair: John Sartin reported that the Harvest Fair was a great success with beautiful weather and a great mix of vendors. He thanks all volunteers for making the Fair a success. Attendance was disappointing and about the same as last year.

A meeting was held yesterday to discuss the future of the Harvest Fair. Jack Kelzer agreed to chair a committee to develop recommendations on what type of event we should have in the future and its structure. The following things will be reviewed: timing, purpose, theme, resources and other related items. Karen Carter mentioned that she had been contacted by the Hanover Master Gardeners Association about the possibility of a joint venture which would include their plant sale. Ann and the Board recognized John and Jack for the work they had done on the Fair.

Extension Report:

Old Business:

1. Theresa Hawkes asked about the logistics of the helpline annex at the Armour house especially how plant samples taken there get to the main office or to Virginia Tech. Several Board members recommended that Lisa Sanderson be contacted to answer the question.
2. Beverly Cochrane mentioned that the fall meeting of the Virginia Master Gardeners Association is this weekend in Lexington at the horse center. Beverly normally writes a paragraph about the Henrico Master Gardeners for their newsletter so if anyone has anything to communicate, let her know.
3. Erica Gilliam asked if possible recruits can be invited to the Association meetings. The board agreed that inviting guests was no problem.
4. Ann Dutton reported that Angela is currently working on the pictorial directory and that Joyce and Peggy are helping with picture identification. Currently there is still debate over who will handle the cost of the directory, especially in the future. The extension office is suggesting that they pay for the initial work and that the Association would assume the cost in the future. The cost is directly related to whether color or black and white pictures are used in the directory so Angela is preparing a cost comparison so we can decide.

The Board also discussed whether the directory should include all active Master Gardeners or just Association members. Ann will consult with Karen Carter to finalize the decision about who is in the directory. Since we still need pictures of many Master Gardeners, Ann suggested that we take pictures at the next two Association meetings and at the December reception.

5. Ann reminded Board members about the vote in August that requires Board members to hear Karen Carter's presentation on the relationship between the Extension Office and the Association. There are six Board members who need the training.

New Business:

Erica mentioned the upcoming trip to Colesville Nursery on November 11th. Attendees will get 25% off of purchases that day.

In Attendance: Vickie Bell, Pat Baskind, Joyce Brannon, Judy Burton, Beverly Cochrane, Faye Derkits, Anne Dutton, Erica Gilliam, Theresa Hawkes, Barry Hayes, Jack Kelzer, Peggy Lowry, John Sartin, Jody Taggart and Ruth Wilson

The next board meeting will be November 4, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m..

Vickie Bell, Recording Secretary

