

# Henrico Master Gardener Association Board Meeting

Minutes: June 2, 2010

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Ann Dutton at 1:00 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:** Ann Dutton reported for Barry Hayes that we have \$3,609.40 in the checking account. This balance is expected to increase as renewals come in over the next couple of months.

The proposed budget was circulated around the room and committee chairs were asked to make corrections as needed. Barry incrementally increased the committee budget amounts to insure that they have enough to do their work.

**1st Vice President:** Ann Dutton reported for Erica Gilliam that the Associations scheduled trips and meeting speakers are in the most recent newsletter. Beverly Cochran added that a trip to Stuart William's daylily garden tour has been added and will be on July 8th.

### **2nd Vice President:**

**Corresponding Secretary:** Ann Dutton reported for Theresa Hawkes that she sent a card to the family of Betty Gillelan after her death. Cards were also sent to Cynthia Seal and Peggy Lowry. Thank you notes were sent to our recent speakers and tour guides. Peggy Lowry volunteered to send a note to Annie Berry.

**Master Gardening Training:** Jim Smith reported that he has begun his planning process for next year and will meet with Lisa in July or August to develop the training schedule. A post-training meeting was held to identify potential improvements for the upcoming year. Jim believes that the entire process needs to be done earlier this year to ensure that we get the speakers and training candidates that we want. One-on-one candidate interviews will be discussed by the committee as a possible addition to the process.

### **Helpline:**

### **Plant clinics:**

**Communications:** Jody Taggert reported that the newsletter is going well. Ann Dutton asked Jody to identify her biggest need for the newsletter. Jody replied that she usually has enough material and that her biggest issue is the time crunch getting it done so it can be mailed on time.

Board members suggested several topics that could be highlighted in the newsletter.

**Service, Recognition and Historical:** Joyce Brannon circulated an obituary and picture for Betty Gillelan. A Tribute will be done at the June meeting.

**S.M.A.R.T. Lawns and Tree Smarts:** Lisa Sanderson reported for Teddy Martin that we have received 37 lawns to date, versus 32 last year at the same time, and that the spring training sessions have been completed.

Jim Smith reported that the Tree Smarts library presentations were completed and that the consultations have started. There will be a new class starting on September 29th. Several people suggested that we do a Tree Smarts presentation at an Association meeting. Grace Harrison volunteered to write an article for the newsletter.

### **Scholarship Program:**

### **Association Bus Trips:**

**JMG:** Faye Derkits reported that they are almost done for the spring but still have programs to do at the Goddard School.

### **Special Events:**

### **Finance:**

### **Hospitality:**

**Membership:** Beverly reported that we have 98 members. We should reach 100 next year because we have 10 interns interested in joining. Beverly is updating her e-mail list to include more people which could encourage new membership. Lisa Sanderson suggested that she could send out a note to all 160 Master Gardeners that she has listed.

**Master Gardener Education Fair:** Lisa Sanderson reported that the committee met recently to continue planning the education fair. We will be partnering with Lewis Ginter for their fall plant sale and will be meeting with them in the next few weeks to discuss the details of our involvement. The sale is scheduled for September 17th and 18th. The committee's current thinking is that we would do short training sessions on topics like composting, choosing the right tree, lawn care, and gardening greener. The next meeting of the committee will by June 16th at 11:30.

**Extension Report:** Lisa Sanderson reported that six master gardeners have signed up for Master Gardener College this year. Faye Derkits asked if we need to provide item(s) for the silent auction. One suggestion was to donate money so something could be purchased. Another item for consideration is entering the "brag board" competition. Suggestions were that we could focus on "Gardens Growing Families" or Tree Smarts. Volunteers would need to do the board and the VMGA website has guidelines for doing the boards.

Lisa asked how many photo directories to print for the annual meeting next week. The Board decided to provide the directory to Association Members and asked Lisa to print 60 copies. Members will get their copies and check their name on a list to acknowledge that they have received their copy.

Lisa also reported that two large water tanks (5900 gallons) have been placed in the “*Garden s Growing Families*” garden. The new Alma Avenue garden will be opening soon and the smaller tank will be moved to that garden. The land for the new garden came from the Henrico Department of Community Revitalization so they are interested in having people in that neighborhood gardening there. Lisa is thinking about having MGs going door-to-door to advertise the new garden plots.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

Jody Taggart recommended that our name tags be modified to identify Board members and committee Chairs.

Beverly Cochrane reported that we have been nominated to host the VMGA meeting next February. Beverly asked for ideas on donations for a “goody bag” to be handed out at the meeting. The meeting will be Saturday February 2nd and Beverly will need people to help with setup, handing out lunches, etc on the meeting day. The Hanover MG Association has volunteered to help with the meeting.

Today is Ann Dutton’s last Board meeting as President. As she leaves, she wants to ensure that a couple of items do not get forgotten. First, she wants to ensure that all new Board members and committee Chairs see Karen Carter’s presentation on the relationship between Extension and the Association. The Board approved this action last year but noted that this probably needs to be added to the bylaws to ensure that it is done routinely. The current by-laws provide a way to amend the by-laws which require a 2/3 majority of the votes at an Association meeting. The second item is a request that candidates for President of the Association should have demonstrated leadership, administrative and relationship skills. These requirements could be added to the position job description.

**In Attendance:** Vickie Bell, Joyce Brannon, Beverly Cochrane, Faye Derkits, Ann Dutton, Grace Harrison, Peggy Lowry, Lisa Sanderson, Jim Smith and Jody Taggart

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Vickie Bell, Recording Secretary