

**Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteer Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 10, 2019
Eau Claire County Extension Office**

In attendance: Paula Bonnin, Chris Southworth, Ellen Terwilliger, Mary Jane Griffin, Ede Strand, Rita Gundry, Dick Lienhardt, Nancy Spak, Carla Pelzl

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by president Mary Jane Griffin.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the September meeting were provided by Rita Gundry, in the absence of Secretary Carla Pelzl. The board reviewed the minutes. Nancy Spak made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Seconded by Dick Lienhardt. The motion passed.

Upcoming election for Board of Director positions:

There are four board members whose terms are up at the end of 2019. The board is seeking certified Master Gardener Volunteers who are interested in serving. Ellen Terwilliger offered names of two potential candidates. One contact is interested in serving; a second contact will let Ellen know her decision. If we have additional suggestions please give their names to Chris Southworth, Rita Gundry, or Ellen Terwilliger. Ellen has announced the upcoming board election via Facebook, an email to MGV's, and in our monthly newsletter. The secretary mentioned that ideally the board should have an odd number of directors – five (the minimum according to our bylaws), seven, or nine. The secretary will give Andy an email message to send out to all MGV's asking them to watch for a postcard ballot in their mailbox. In order to be counted, the ballot must be completed and returned to the Extension office (via mail or in person) by the deadline date listed on the ballot.

Treasurer's Report: Ede Strand reported a balance of \$12,760.24 in our account. Not all MGV's have submitted their annual dues yet. They were to be in by September 30th. Ede also mentioned we need a 2nd board member who is authorized to sign checks. Rita Gundry offered and she and Ede will get that taken care of.

Horticulture Coordinator Report: Margaret Murphy was not able to be present and had not submitted a report for the meeting.

Education Committee Report: Lori Kempen and Nina Logan

The following presentations and activities are planned for the monthly meetings up through December 2019. The meetings are on the third Monday of the month at the Extension Building and are open to the public:

- September 16 – Annual Harvest Potluck
- October 21 -- The ABC's of Mason Bees – Rita Gundry
- November 28 – Gardening with Incarcerated Populations – Bill Manning from Dunn Co. MG association
- December 16 – Annual Holiday Party and Potluck – MGV's are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items which will be donated to the local Food Pantry.

WIMGA Update: Ellen said anyone can attend the WIMGA annual meeting on October 26 in Stevens Point, although space is limited. There will be an email announcement sent out to MGV's.

Old Business:

- Winter Garden Seminar, Saturday, February 1, 2020: The first meeting of the seminar planning committee was held Monday, September 9, 2019. The committee is contacting potential speakers. If any MGV's have a suggestion, please let Nina Logan know. A number of speakers have already agreed to come.
- Munch and Learn open house: This event was held at the Extension Office Teaching Garden on August 27th. Invitations were distributed to households in the neighborhood. Those attending enjoyed snacks featuring garden produce. Mike Maddox encouraged us to start planning ahead for next year's event and get the word out well ahead. Ellen suggested also inviting elementary school children.
- Plant sale next year: It was suggested that we give \$25 gift cards to Tom Kempen, Terry Griffin, and John Davis, who are not members of our association, but who have helped set up for the sale and take down after. Dick Lienhardt moved that \$25 Chamber gift certificates be given to those long-time helpers. Seconded by Nancy Spak. Mary Jane will pick up the gift cards. We hope to have next year's Plant Sale, by the end of May.
- Super Star Training: The training was held at the Extension Office and was a success. The goal was to help Master Gardeners respond effectively to horticulture questions.
- Binders for Board Members: It had been suggested that all board members receive a binder with minutes from the previous year, a copy of the by-laws, and any other important documents. Mary Jane moved that binders be purchased and prepared for board members; seconded by Ellen Terwilliger. The motion carried. Chris Southworth will prepare a sample binder for the board to review. Ellen suggested using the Google share drive for storing important documents, such as By-laws, past board meeting minutes, etc.

New Business:

- The deadline for the MG Photo Contest entries is October 7, 2019.
- The Hosta Society invited our MGV's to their meeting on Sunday, October 13, 2019 In Menomonie. Mike Shadrack will present "Eight English Gardens", a tour of four pairs of gardens in different corners of southeast England, each with an entirely different garden style and types of plants. The program will be at the Mayo Clinic Health System Red Cedar facility. Park on the north side of the loading dock and enter outdoor stairs/ramp at the north side loading dock.
- Digger's Award – The board selected Sue Merten as the recipient of the award, for her help with the website and her leadership as plant sale chairperson. It was suggested that for next year's award, we should consider establishing criteria in writing.
- Mike Maddox mentioned to Mary Jane that we should value everyone in our association. Some are skilled in using a computer, or posting items on our Facebook page, others have organizational gifts or help with various events, or provide plants for our annual sale. We should be sure to appreciate everyone and encourage them to contribute what they can.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 14, 2019 at the Extension Office.

Paula Bonnin moved adjournment; seconded by Dick Lienhardt. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Pelzl, Secretary