



NE MGA
Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Association

**Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Association
Board Meeting via Zoom and at RRAC
September 14, 2020**

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Andrea Belcher, Barbara Radice, Barbara Voigt, Betts Leach, Carl Voigt, Chris Ramsey, John Hitchcock, Karen Rowell, Kathy Wagner, Larry Wagner, Margaret O’Neal, Mary Cain, Pat Mazurkiewicz, Teresa Gaffner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Don Davis, Gwen Ellis, Liz Blakely, Susie Morrison

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME: Meeting was called to order by President, Karen Rowell

SECRETARY’S REPORT: Barbara Radice

Minutes were approved as submitted. Motion made by Pat Mazurkiewicz and seconded by Mary Cain. All approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Pat Mazurkiewicz

Treasurer’s report was presented. Motion made to approve budget by Carl Voigt and seconded by Barb Radice. All approved.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT: John Hitchcock

John brought up request from Heather Watson of the Hands On! Discovery Center in Gray. They have a pollinator garden and they would love to have Master Gardener’s participate in their garden project. John Hitchcock would like to investigate as he lives very close to the Discovery Center. Barb Radice volunteered to go as well. Chris Ramsey mentioned that they would be a good partner to be involved with. Karen Rowell suggested that Don Davis also visit since he is responsible for the projects.

MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION: Mary Cain

Mary’s phone call project was moderately successful and she now has 120 members who are up-to-date with hours, paperwork, and paid dues. It was discussed that by September 23rd we send out the membership dues form for the annual fee of \$20 along with a self-addressed envelope to make it easy for members to pay their dues before December 31st. After December 31st, a late fee of \$5 added to the dues. Karen Rowell suggested we include an incentive of nursery gift certificates to encourage compliance. A motion was made by Mary Cain to include an incentive consisting of a *chance* to win one of two \$50 gift certificates to a local nursery for those who pay on time. The motion was seconded by Kathy Wagner. All approved.

PROGRAMS: Teresa Gaffner

October 5th program – Edible and Medicinal Trees of Appalachia by Jeremy Stout of Steele Creek Park Nature Center is planned. We can Zoom in or come in person. UT limits the group to 50 people in the RRAC. There will be some social distancing requirements in the center and masks will be required. The Christmas dinner was discussed and it was decided that in light of the current virus situation we should cancel this year. In January we will discuss options for an April or May outdoor event.

COMMUNICATIONS: Barbara Radice

No report

PUBLICITY: Andrea Belcher

Publicity projects are postponed for now due to virus.

NEWSLETTER: Betts Leach

Betts requested that we find a volunteer to send out newsletters to 5 members who do not have email addresses. Barb Radice will request a volunteer via email. (Late note – After meeting, Barb agreed to send out the newsletters.)

WEBSITE: Barbara & Carl Voigt

We have recently updated several of the project pages. Please let us know if there are additions or corrections that need to be made to the website.

We sent requests to project leaders for updates on the individual project web pages. We received updates from Exchange Place, Rocky Mount, Church Hill Senior Center, Harvest of Hope and a new write-up for the Steele Creek Park. Update: New webpage for Unicoi Hospital up now.

There were no responses from Branch House, Carver, Sycamore Shoals, Warriors' Path or Tipton Haynes.

Grant Money Report: The members of the JCMC garden project appreciate the receipt of \$300.00 toward the creation of a butterfly garden at the St. Jude's Outpatient Clinic at Niswonger Children's Hospital. The main part of the renovation is complete, with the money being used for shrubs, mulch and drainage gravel. Once the plans were announced, there was a lot of enthusiasm among the gardeners. We received many donations of plants from personal gardens. We continue to renovate adjacent areas to improve the view from the clinic waiting room.

SULLIVAN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT: Chris Ramsey/ Andrea Belcher

1 – UT is not requiring any volunteer or CEU hours from Master Gardeners in 2020 due to the virus but members should still be inputting any hours that they have incurred.

2 – Chris will be sending out information about volunteering to plant trees in late October/November. It will be a one-day event for those interested. Margaret O'Neal volunteered to contact members from her 2019 class, to see who might be interested.

4 – Andrea will let current class know about projects available for their volunteer hours. She will be presenting an in-depth look at projects at the final session.

5 – Andrea is mailing out pins and awards to members who have not yet picked them up.

Karen Rowell asked who is willing to be on the Board another year. All agreed to stay except Pat Mazurkiewicz who would like to end her 10 years as Treasurer and Andrea would like to be excused from attending Board meetings. Barb Radice will send out a request to see if we have any members who would like to volunteer to be Treasurer. Karen and John Hitchcock will work together to nominate a Treasurer for next year. Karen adjourned the meeting at 7:15pm

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING: October 5th via Zoom and at RRAC at 6:00pm

NEXT BOARD MEETING: November 2nd at 6:00pm in RRAC and via Zoom