



NETMGA
Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Association

Northeast TN Master Gardener Board Meeting
Ron Ramsey Regional Agriculture Center & Zoom
Date: November 2, 2020

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Andrea Belcher, Barbara Radice, Barbara Voigt, Betts Leach, Carl Voigt, Chris Ramsey, Don Davis, John Hitchcock, Karen Rowell, Kathy Wagner, Larry Wagner, Mary Cain, Pat Mazurkiewicz, Susie Morrison, Teresa Gaffner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gwen Ellis, Liz Blakely, Margaret O'Neal

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by the President, Karen Rowell.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Barbara Radice

Minutes were approved as submitted. Motion made for approval by Pat Mazurkiewicz and seconded by John Hitchcock; all approved.

Barb reported that all Board job descriptions were updated and formatted this year. Each Board member received his/hers for final approval. Mary Cain had a question on the Membership job description, which was resolved at the meeting, so that job description will be edited. Barb will send all job descriptions to the Website Administrator for inclusion on the NETMGA website.

Liz Blakely would like to resign as Facebook Administrator; we need to look for a new volunteer. No current Board member volunteered for this position. Barb will send out a request to the membership.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Pat Mazurkiewicz

Pat presented the budget as of: 10/29/2020

Barb Radice motioned for approval and Andrea Belcher seconded; all approved.

Pat presented the proposed 2021 budget. Only changes were that speaker fee is increased to \$500 and Expendables for programs reduced to \$200. Motion to approve by Carl Voigt and seconded by Larry Wagner. All approved.

Pat is retiring as Treasurer and two Master Gardeners, Karen Todd and Mary Ann Lovelace, have volunteered for the position. They will meet with Pat and learn how to manage the books. Karen Rowell has asked them to decide who will serve the next two years as Treasurer and who will take the subsequent two years. Since both of them will know how to manage the books, it will provide us depth for this critical position.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT: John Hitchcock - No report

MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION REPORT: Mary Cain

Dues forms went out to all members last week. Dues are due by December 31st and a \$5 late fee added after that time. Mary contacted all the vendors for the 10% discount card, some have declined and some are out of business. Mary will contact several other vendors recommended by Board Members to see if they would like to be included. Andrea will create the discount cards and mail them out with the annual service awards in February.

PROGRAMS: Teresa Gaffner/ Gwen Ellis

There will be no program in December. However, after discussion, the Board decided that we will have a December member meeting via Zoom to update members on all that is happening and vote in new officers. Barb will look into Google or Zoom Polling to assist with that process. We would like to keep it under an hour. John Hitchcock will draft an agenda and send to Board members.

Teresa suggested that we send out an electronic Christmas card to all members. Teresa will design one and Barb will send it out in December.

PROJECTS: Don Davis

Don noted that he still needs invoices for some of the project grants, so they can be reimbursed.

Barb Reported on New Project proposal - The "Hands On" Discovery Museum in Gray has requested Master Gardener support. Don, John, and Barb went to the site. The museum has created a large Pollinator garden on the property with native plants from the Pliocene era or same genus. Christy Shivell of Shy Valley Nursery is the designer and she will continue to be a resource on the project. The museum plans to open the garden to the public in spring of 2021 and is requesting help on the upkeep of the garden and with planning and providing education for museum guests. Barb advocated for this project because of its high visibility in the community, central location, and educational opportunities. She agreed to take on Project Lead position and John Hitchcock has volunteered to help. Four other Master Gardeners (three from 2020 class who live in Gray) would like to volunteer at that site. Group discussed possibility of adding this project. Don expressed his concern that we already have projects needing volunteers and we don't want to spread ourselves too thin. Chris is very supportive of taking on this project but he needs a Project request form completed by a Master Gardener. Barb will complete and submit to him. Barb made a motion that she and several other gardeners will conduct an assessment of the Pollinator Gardener and clarify what would be done by Master Gardeners. Motion seconded by John Hitchcock and approved by all members. She will present findings at January meeting for Board approval.

PUBLICITY: Andrea Belcher – No report

COMMUNICATIONS: Barbara Radice – No report

NEWSLETTER: Betts Leach

Newsletter went out this week. Betts gave special thanks to Jane Mullins who provided her with the new class information. Board requested that Betts make a special Newsletter edition in Jan/Feb for the service awards (only the awards) since we will not be having an awards dinner this year.

WEBSITE: Carl & Barbara Voigt

Updates received from most projects. Please let Carl and Barb know if there are any changes or additions needed on the website.

HOSPITALITY: Larry & Kathy Wagner - No report.

SULLIVAN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT: Chris Ramsey

Chris reported that Dr. Tim Cross, Chancellor of UT Agricultural School, is setting up a committee to plan for re-opening and transitioning back to “normal” operations. Not certain how soon the re-opening will actually happen. Dr. Cross expressed his appreciation for how well the UT Agricultural Department has responded to the pandemic and kept the cases low.

NEW BUSINESS

Susie Morrison (Class of 2019 Rep) reported that she and Imogene Bailey volunteered to teach a Pollinator Class via Zoom for the JC Monday Club on February 1st. She asked the group for photos of plants that she could use for her presentation. Don Davis recommended the iNaturalist website as a good resource. Barb can send request to membership if needed.

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

December 7th, 2020 at 6:00pm via Zoom

NEXT BOARD MEETING

January 4th, 2021 at 6:00pm at the RRAC and via Zoom