



NETMGA
Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Association

Northeast TN Master Gardener Board Meeting
Zoom Meeting
Date: May 3, 2021

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Andrea Belcher, Barbara Radice, Barbara Voigt, Betts Leach, Brenda McKinnis, Carl Voigt, Chris Ramsey, Don Davis, John Hitchcock, Heather Duby, Karen Rowell, Karen Todd, Kathy Wagner, Larry Wagner, Margaret O'Neal, Teresa Gaffner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Emily Lemieux, Gwen Ellis, Maggie McClellan, Mary Ann Lovelace, Mary Cain,

GUESTS: Natalie Bumgarner

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Meeting was called to order by the President, Karen Rowell.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Barbara Radice

Minutes from Board Meeting of March 1, 2021 were approved as presented. Motion made by Carl Voigt, seconded by John Hitchcock, all approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Karen Todd

Karen Todd presented the budget as of May 3rd, 2021

Income in April of \$115.00 Expenses in April of \$100 (for Joy Moore presentation). Balance in checking account of \$7517.94

Spendable balance of the NETMGA Endowment is \$3069.25

Motion made to approve the budget as presented by John Hitchcock and seconded by Carl Voigt, all approved. Discussion on where grant money comes from. Karen Rowell clarified that the funds come first from the gift money at UT and secondly from the spendable money at UT (interest from endowment).

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT: John Hitchcock

John reported that he handling the Jonesborough Farmers Market, where they will be providing us a table. Emily Lemieux is handling the Kingsport Farmers Market. John has not heard back from Johnson City Farmers market. Decision made to solicit volunteers for both of these markets. John will send information to Barb Radice so she can create a Sign-up genius for the summer.

2022 State TEMG Conference: Natalie Bumgarner

Natalie suggested the dates of June, 9, 10 and 11th 2022 for the conference. She will confer with UT to be sure those dates will work and then follow-up with Bays Mountain and Meadowview. She suggested we have a planning meeting in June to review the 2020 plans and see what we can keep and what needs to change. Date of June 29th at 10:00am proposed and approved. We will meet in the big room at the RRAC.

Karen suggested that we provide boxed lunches and encourage members to bring dessert. All approved. Barb Radice will send out an invite to all MGs.

MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION REPORT: Mary Cain

Andrea reported that letters were sent to the 10 MGs who did not pay dues with no response from any of them, so they are now listed as inactive and have been removed from the email and UT rosters.

PROGRAMS: Teresa Gaffner

Teresa reported that Ben Casteel will be presenting a Zoom meeting on June 7th from his greenhouse and the topic will be greenhouses, both home and commercial. On June 28th we will have an MG garden showcase slide presentation via Zoom. Earl Hockin proposed having the August meeting at Exchange Place and discuss fall gardening. That idea was well received. October is still open for a Barbecue. Suggestion to hold the barbecue at Steele Creek Park and the idea was well received. Teresa will follow-up with Jeremy Stout, who could host us and provide the presentation. Christmas dinner will be discussed later.

Teresa would like to find some new members of the Program Committee, since she is now the only member. Barb will include that request when sending out info on June meetings.

PROJECTS: Don Davis

Seven grants approved: Discovery Garden at the Gray Fossil Site, Carver Peace Garden, Harvest of Hope, Johnson City Medical Center, Rocky Mount, Exchange Place and Tipton Haynes. Project managers need to contact Chris Ramsey to become a UT vendor to receive reimbursement. Receipts need to be presented to Andrea Belcher and she will submit them to UT.

PUBLICITY: Brenda McKinnis

1 – Scavenger Hunt: Brenda McKinnis reported that no Project Manager has hosted a MG visitor for the scavenger hunt. Barbara Voigt suggested we pick a particular time for visitors and Karen suggested that folks find an MG buddy when visiting the projects. Brenda will create a simplified communication for Barb Radice to send out weekly to encourage visits. Deadline for scavenger hunt is end of May. Karen challenged all the Board members to participate.

2 – Other Publicity: Recreation Magazine will be printing an article about Carver Peace Garden; Nancy Shilling is working on that. Chris wrote a press release and will send to Brenda and Margaret.

3 – Andrea reported that the 2021 MG class will begin Thursday, August 5th from 9:00am – 12:00pm for 16 sessions at the RRAC. Project Managers are invited to attend the first class and present their projects and encourage new class members to visit their projects.

NEWSLETTER: Betts Leach

Newsletter with correction sent out today.

FACEBOOK: Heather Duby

Heather will post update on Scavenger hunt on FB. Heather will investigate private vs. public pages on Facebook. That would provide an open forum for the public and a closed forum for members only. Social Media Policy revised and presented, all approved.

WEBSITE: Carl & Barbara Voigt

Website is up-to-date and is updated as often as new information comes to the Voigts. MGs encouraged to take and submit new pictures of the projects.

HOSPITALITY: Larry & Kathy Wagner

Kathy reported that they are available whenever we begin in-person meetings again.

SULLIVAN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT: Chris Ramsey

1 - Andrea reminded us that the Cattlemen are having a dinner on May 22nd at the RRAC, all are invited and encouraged to attend. The cost is \$20 per person.

2 - Chris presented a proposal from the YMCA in Kingsport where they are requesting MGs to work with youth on gardening during June and July. Topics, days and times are open. Don Davis suggested that if they can travel, visits to the projects would be educational and fun. Barb Radice will call Rhonda Helton for more details and send out request to entire MG group.

3- Chris stated that the class of 2020 project is to beautify the sign in front of the RRAC. Last week, 3 members of the class: Frank DiCarlo, Susan DiCarlo and Louise Mann helped with the borders and planting. Chris has some funds to complete the project but is requesting \$200 from NETMGA to support the sign project completion. Barb Radice moved that we approve up to \$200 for the Sign Project. John Hitchcock seconded the motion and all approved. Karen reminded Chris that he needs to use his funds first.

4 – Chris reported that UT expects faculty on site as of June 1st this year, but the UTIA (Institute of Agriculture) has not yet made a decision. Even with current restrictions, we have a large enough room at the RRAC to have in-person meetings with the 50 person limit.

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

June 7, 2021 at 6:30pm via Zoom

June 28, 2021 at 6:30 via Zoom

NEXT BOARD MEETING

July 12th 2021 at 6:30pm at Ron Ramsey Ag Center