



**NETMGA**  
*Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Association*

Northeast TN Master Gardener Board Meeting  
Ron Ramsey Agricultural Center  
Date: September 13, 2021

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Andrea Belcher, Barbara Radice, Barbara Voigt, Chris Ramsey, Don Davis, Heather Duby, Karen Rowell, Karen Todd, Kathy Wagner, Larry Wagner, Mary Cain, Teresa Gaffner

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Betts Leach, Brenda McKinnis, Carl Voigt, Emily Lemieux, Gwen Ellis, John Hitchcock, Maggie McClellan, Mary Ann Lovelace,

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

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

**SECRETARY'S REPORT: Barbara Radice**

Minutes for meeting of July 12, 2021 were presented. Motion to approve made by Heather Duby, Seconded by Karen Todd, all approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT: Karen Todd**

Karen presented the budget as of September 13, 2021  
Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report made by Karen Rowell,  
Seconded by Heather Duby, All approved

Discussion ensued related to excess funds in our local checking account. Chris Ramsey stated that it is UT policy to keep local balances about \$1000 more than the annual budget with the excess money deposited in the NETMGA Endowment Fund where it earns 4.5% interest annually. The reason we prefer not to move money into the Endowment is that getting funds from there is onerous. Since we don't have the budget for the Christmas dinner yet, Barb Radice made a motion that we table any decision to move funds until the November meeting, seconded by Mary Cain, all approved.

**By-Laws: Barb Radice**

Barb Radice presented the By-Laws as revised from previous meeting. Several other changes were recommended, which Barb will include in the next revision to accompany the minutes of this meeting. Don Davis made a motion that we increase the one year term for officers to two years, Mary Cain seconded the motion and all approved. In an effort to encourage more members to be involved in the Board, Karen Rowell will request that any members interested in a Board position please contact her or John Hitchcock. She will announce at the October and December meetings.

**MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION REPORT: Mary Cain**

Mary Cain suggested we mail out the Master Gardener volunteer Agreement and the invoice for 2022 dues along with a return envelope next month. After some discussion it was decided to mail them out the week of November 10<sup>th</sup>. Members could mail them back or bring them to the Christmas dinner. Motion made to increase the late fee to \$10 made by Don Davis, seconded by Mary Cain, all approved.

**PROGRAMS: Teresa Gaffner**

Teresa Gaffner's committee has met to discuss the Christmas dinner and are currently investigating costs. Teresa is still looking for photos of projects and home gardens for the Christmas dinner. The committee is already making plans for next year, such as planning to visit projects.

**PROJECTS: Don Davis**

Don reported that only two projects have submitted receipts for grant funds: Discovery Garden and Harvest of Hope. It was decided to extend the deadline for the other projects to November 1<sup>st</sup>. Don Davis to notify all leaders as to the extension.

**FACEBOOK: Heather Duby**

Heather will compile the rules for Social Media and send them out to the Board for approval. All the current members on Facebook will be retained unless they become problematic. Moving forward only NETMGA members will be allowed to post on the site.

**WEBSITE: Barbara Voigt**

Andrea Belcher questioned why the NETMGA site is listed as "Not Secure" when you open the site. Barbara Voigt will investigate but there is no requirement that our website be secure since we do not sell anything or request information from any visitors to the site.

**HOSPITALITY: Larry & Kathy Wagner**

Larry and Kathy Wagner will provide bottled water and pre-packaged snacks for October meeting.

**SULLIVAN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT: Chris Ramsey**

Chris Ramsey agreed to have someone from UT explain the UT policy regarding minimizing local funds.

**NEXT MEMBER MEETING**

October 4, 2021 at 6:30pm at RRAC

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

November 1, 2021 at 6:30pm at RRAC