

*Northeast TN Master Gardener Board Meeting*

*Ron Ramsey Agricultural Center*

Date: January 9, 2023

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Mary Cain, Barbara Voigt, Carl Voigt, Brenda McKinnis, Karen Rowell, Kathy Wagner, Larry Wagner, Linda Spisak, Millie Sue Hawk, Chris Ramsey, John Hitchcock, Mary Ann Lovelace, Karen Todd, Nancy Shilling

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Andrea Belcher, Don Davis, Teresa Gaffner, Barb Radice, Betts Leach, Gwen Ellis, Heather Duby

**GUESTS:** Neil Brown, Keep Kingsport Beautiful

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Karen Rowell.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mary Cain**

The minutes were reviewed from the 11-7-22 board meeting and the 12-5-22 Membership meeting and were approved. Millie Sue Hawk made the motion to approve the 11-7-22 minutes and the motion was seconded by Linda Spisak. Carl Voigt made the motion to approve the 12-5-22 Membership minutes and was seconded by Linda Spisak.

**TREASURER'S REPORT: Karen Todd**

Karen presented the budget as of 1-9-23.

The motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Susie Morrison and seconded by John Hitchcock. The motion was approved.

**PROJECT REPORT AND GRANTS FOR 2023: Don Davis**

Don was absent. It was mentioned that a Unicoi project needs clarification.

**PROGRAMS FOR 2023: Susie Morrison**

Susie mentioned needing volunteers for the 2-6-23 Membership meeting and suggested using a Sign-Up Genius to schedule members for setting up before and cleaning up afterwards. The Awards Dinner will be "pot luck" and may be changed to a barbeque dinner. Plans are underway for the April Membership meeting.

**MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION REPORT: Mary Cain**

Mary reported that there were a few changes in the membership roster primarily involving the inclusion of Washington County 2022 interns. That brings our NETMGA total membership to 172 including all of Sullivan County and Washington County. There are still discrepancies between the UT roster and the NETMGA roster but Andrea Belcher has said that steps were being made to correct the UT roster. Inactive members have been marked

inactive. Several current members have not registered on the UT site. Currently there are 36 on the NETMGA roster that have not paid 2023 dues. An email notice was sent 1-2-23 to each one. The NETMGA of Sullivan County 2022 class has been added to the NETMGA roster. The members who have not met current requirement will be notified after 2-1-23. Several of our members have requested a Leave of Absence form due to health issues. One additional item presented pertained to whether or not one of our members can get CEU credit for research that went in to preparing for *Ask a Master Gardener* articles. There were questions for the Washington County Extension Agent, Adam Watson, concerning some of the new members. One additional question was raised about a question from several of the active members about making up 2022 hours in the new year, 2023.

**PUBLICITY: Brenda McKinnis (Nancy Shilling)**

Brenda reminded everyone about upcoming events and the need to ensure that all members are made aware of the events. There is work being done to catalog all of the *Ask a Master Gardener* articles.

**COMMUNICATIONS: Heather Duby**

(absent)

**NEWSLETTER: Betts Leach**

(absent)

**FACEBOOK: Heather Duby**

(absent)

**MENTORS: John Hitchcock**

John mentioned that he had picked up 13 mentors from Washington County.

**WEBSITE: Carl & Barbara Voigt**

For the treasurer, website costs need to be registered by Karen Todd with a new card. There have been 32,000 hits on the netmga.net website. The website may be redone. It was noted that Washington County needs a class rep.

**HOSPITALITY: Larry & Kathy Wagner**

There were no comments made.

**SULLIVAN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT: Chris Ramsey**

Chris reported that so far there had been 10 paid for the new 2023 Master Gardener class that begins on 1-31-23 and runs through 5-2-23. That number should increase in the next 2 weeks. The \$185.00 cost of the class may increase in 2024 to \$200.00 due to the rising costs of printing. Greene County has already raised their price. The cost to the Extension Office should remain at \$10.00.

Chris also announced the fruit tree pruning workshop sometime toward the end of February. There will be the “*Right Tree – Right Place*” seminar on February 23. A grafting class will be held on March 16.

### **Presentation from Keep Kingsport Beautiful: Neil Brown**

Neil presented a presentation about the vital importance of pollinators and the efforts being made to make Kingsport pollinator friendly through different gardening projects including several at area schools. He asked that our Master Gardener membership volunteer to help with the different projects. Heather DUBY is the NETMGA contact person. Sign-Up genius posts can be created to give our membership opportunity to volunteer for the downtown projects. Hours can be reported under “other community gardens”.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Adam Watson, Washington County Extension Agent, explained that classes offered through Washington County Extension can be viewed via Zoom for CEU credit by all NETMGA members. He asked that it be considered to somehow link our news letter to the Washington County members. Washington County Extension needs to pay \$130.00 for the 13 new members.

Another item of new business was presented by Mary Cain. Several of our active members worked on the Jonesboro Garden Gala but it had been removed from the project list and presented a challenge when our members tried to input project hours.

The next NETMGA Board meeting on March 6 may be at the Jonesboro Extension Office.

John Hitchcock made a motion to redo the grant program and up the amount to \$350.00. Linda Spisak seconded the motion. It was suggested that Don Davis be made aware.

### **NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING PLANS**

The next Membership meeting will be on February 6 and will be a barbeque dinner and include the annual Awards Presentation. Details will be outlined in more detail on the netmga.net website.

### **NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The next board meeting is scheduled for March 6 at 6.30 p.m. potentially at the Washington County Extension Office.

Meeting was adjourned by Karen Rowell.