

NORTHERN NECK MASTER GARDENERS

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Zoom Meeting

ATTENDEES:

Members: Mary Beane, Cindy Dullea, Margaret Gibson, Carolyn Gorman, Barbara Kauneckas, Diane Kean, Michelle Kramer, Susan Lindsey, Janice Mahoney, Carol Martin, Tami McCauley, Betty Mill, Edward Munns, Anne Olsen, Lynn Osborne, Henry Riely, Mary A. Turville, Fran Westbrook.

VCE Staff: William Bell

MINUTES: The minutes of February 3rd, 2021 were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: was presented by Fran Westbrook and approved. Current balance is \$42,155. \$120 is out in petty cash bags for the Farmers Markets. We have received \$2,000 for GNN, \$750 in dues (only 6 EMG's have not paid 2021 dues), one \$60 shoreline evaluation fee, and a \$25 donation. The report will be posted on the website.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Program Committee Reports:

1. Help Desk – Henry Riely – The Help Desk will soon be announced open to public. It will be remote again this year and open on Tuesday and Friday mornings for volunteers to respond to emails. A Zoom training session for volunteers is possible, showing how to simplify the remote process using the gmail account. One challenge for the Help Desk is that VT can't receive physical samples, only photos. Henry has asked that we consider making house calls.
2. Community Education – Betty Mill. Met to discuss the various aspects of Community Education. This resulted in 4 people signing up to form a children's ed committee, co-chaired by Carmela Crawford and Bethany Bosold. They will be contacting the 4-H'ers, Tara & Wendy, and begin working together to assist their work in the schools.
Anne Olsen has volunteered to update and condense the booklet, "Gardening in the Northern Neck".
3. Farmers Markets – Sue Kosinski - no activity.
4. Teaching Gardens – Janice Mahoney reported that a Zoom meeting was held to discuss the coming season for the vegetable garden. Currently, it is too wet to start. Seeds have been started. Betsy is also talking with her volunteers about getting started at George Washington Herb Garden. Marge reported that volunteers at Historic Christ Church will be taking out the old boxwood hedge – by hand - this weekend in preparation for planting the new hedge.
5. SEP – Mary Turville reported on the 2/24 training session with Karen Duhring, VIMS, on living shoreline fundamentals, installing such a shoreline as well as other protection methods. The session wrapped up with a chat between Karen and her audience.
A technical issue with the software used to report Catch the King data has occurred. Android phones will not be supported. A work around is being discussed.

Ian conducted CCRM mapping training to show what can be learned about a property prior to visiting the site.

Ian is also leading a team to update the Home Owner's Guide, which should be ready when evaluations begin on 4/1. Nine evaluations are planned. (30 eval limit for the year).

A question was raised by Lynn Osborne to open Duhring training to all NNMG's. Mary said that Karen may possibly visit to conduct a walk at Belle Isle State Park in October to survey the installation of a living shoreline on the beach there. Attendance could be an issue given the Covid guidance.

6. Communications/Publicity – Carolyn Gorman reported that Helen Johnson's piece on trees should appear in this week's paper (Rappahannock Record). Carolyn Gorman requested \$200 for materials for the Communications/Publicity Committee to track articles and dates. Barb Kauneckas motioned, Lynn Osborne seconded the motion, and all approved.
7. Volunteer Management – Brief introduction to Better Impact(BI) – Barb Kauneckas. A document was attached to the agenda with screen shots showing how Better Impact works. The March Membership meeting will have interactive training for members. Bill will review annual re-enrollment forms which will be done via BI. The training will be recorded for others to see who are not able to attend. It's necessary that each MG keep track of their username and password because neither Barb nor Bill will have access to that information. Username and password should be sent out next week. A 30 minute training video has been provided by VT and everyone is encouraged to view it. Historical info will be transferred soon. Each MG can update their own profile with their personal info. We will not be using the scheduling feature, just reporting CE and volunteer hours only.
8. Technology – Cindy Dullea – For GNN, Cindy has been providing technical assistance to questions coming in.
9. EMG Continuing Education – Tami McCauley – Programs have been set up through October.
10. MG Newsletters – Diane Kean reported that a final decision had been made on the name of the new newsletter. Sixty entries were received and the judges narrowed them down to the top ten. Chosen from the top ten: **The Garden Post**. A \$25 gift certificate will be presented to Michelle Kramer. The first newsletter will be sent out by April 1st and quarterly thereafter. Ticklers will be sent out to remind potential writers of article deadlines.
11. Ted presented news from the VMGA: 2021 International Master Gardener College, postponed from last year, will be held 9/12-17 and conducted virtually. Registration opens on 4/5; schedule & speakers will be available then; registration fee is \$150. (Scholarships are available.) There are 5 keynote speakers and 30 concurrent session speakers have been lined up. The sessions will be held in the afternoon only. Attendees will come from the US, S. Korea, Canada, and England.

There will be no NNMG Member meeting for September to encourage attendance

Special Project Committee Reports:

GNN – Sue Kosinski, Lynn Osborne, Cindy Dullea – All are looking forward to 3/20 making it to the finish line. The last test run with a speaker is scheduled for this afternoon. Lynn offered kudos to Cindy, and Bill and Trent for giving such great support. All of the major elements are coming together: the virtual brochure, power point presentations, Henry sending emails to participants and the evaluation survey.

Plant Sale – Michelle Kramer – Requests will be going out for volunteers to work over the 3-day event with shift changing during the day.

VCE Updates – Bill reported that VT considers VCE activities educational. We can do indoor activities up to 250 people or 30% capacity. Outdoor 250 max. There are separate guidelines for plant sales. Possibly plant clinics fall under plant sales which would make it possible to do farmers markets. Bill and Trent will discuss. We don't have to include names of contacts at the plant clinics. For indoor meetings, we have to take the names of attendees, provide hand sanitizer, and remain 6' apart and masked. A Zoom meeting must be available for those who don't want to gather. There is a possibility of the April Exec Committee meeting being held at the Transportation Building. Marge will check on capacity.

For 2021, the volunteer requirements are 8 hours of continuing education, which can be virtual; and 20 hours of volunteer time. Waivers can be granted re the volunteer time, but there are opportunities such as writing newspaper articles and virtual help desk which can be done at home.

Organization and Goals for the Year – Marge requested that attendees bring their goals for the organization to the next meeting for discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Beane,
Secretary