

N.E.W. Master Gardeners Board Meeting

July 10, 2024 6:00 pm

STEM Room 131 In Person

*Present:* Bruce LaSota, Megan Fierst, Eric Krop, Kate Fix, Edie Brandt, Don Buntman, Jennifer Classon, Bernie Jansen, Paula King, Terri Lewis, Jim Radey, Sherill Revolinski, Annette Weissbach

*Absent:* Shirley Triest-Robertson, Melissa Wass, Nancy Whitfield

1. Bruce LaSota called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm
2. The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and approved: Motion to approve was made by Don Buntman and seconded by Megan Fierst.
3. The Treasurer's report dated Jul 5, 2024 was presented and reviewed by Eric Kropp.
  - The \$9,243.83 income from the plant sale includes \$1264 in Native plant sales.
  - Liability Insurance premium has been paid that covers both the Executive officers and the directors on the board.
  - There were no questions or corrections in regard to the report
4. Committee Reports:
  - a. Projects Committee
    - NEWCAP flash project expense was \$767.29, most of which was spent on perennial bushes at the Jefferson Street house, (work is complete here). The Cherry Street house needs a few more perennials planted and a small amount of cleanup to finish.
    - The Resch flash project is finished till fall. Brown County paid for annuals and had them delivered for the Master Gardener volunteers to plant. Mark Konlock from Green Bay Botanical Garden helped obtain daffodils for fall planting and hopefully a show of color for the NFL Draft hosted here next April.
  - b. Communications Committee (Megan Fierst)
    - Facebook has added many new members and it has helped to have the link with Instagram. A link is needed between the NEWMGA website and Instagram.
    - Guidelines for our online presence are done and Megan will email them to the board at a later date (can currently be found in the shared drive)
    - Peggy Loritz is working on a slide show for the October 12, 2024 Annual Fall Meeting—please submit photos that you would like included to Peggy
  - c. Outreach Committee (Bruce LaSota)
    - Military Farmers' Market didn't work out this year, but will try again next year
    - Allen Pyle (Statewide Horticulture Outreach Specialist) will be guest speaker here at the STEM July 24, 2024 6-7pm. He will talk on IPM and current trends in the commercial horticulture industry
    - A Fall program in partnership with the Green Bay Botanical Garden will not happen this year

- WIMGA will have Doug Tallamy as guest speaker later this year
- d. Membership Committee (Kate Fix)
- Kate captured our attention with a spreadsheet detailing the results of the plant sale. She stated that the 2558 plants that were sold is probably an optimum number. Locating it in the hallway outside the extension office was closer to the greenhouse for setup.
  - Eric K. mentioned that the Native plant sale preorder with the Master Gardener presence and posters was a good educational opportunity. A suggestion was made to have an educational activity going on during the plant sale next year. (Don Buntman did an Iris workshop on the Saturday of the Native plant sale pickup—good to generate more attendance at both)
  - There were 598 native plants grown and 316 sold June 28/29th. Most of the remainder were used at the Neville Museum flash project & a few were given away at the Locktender open house. Next year the goal is to get the native plants off to an earlier start so that the greenhouse does not need to be tended through the month of June.

#### 5. Associate Member Proposal

- Four detailed documents were presented by Kate Fix as chair of the Membership Committee. They included: 1. Associate Member Proposal—defined for the board and Master Gardener members 2. Registration Form for those interested in being Associate members 3. The Paul Hartman Reimbursement Scholarship Application and 4. The Spreadsheet for Associate members to keep track of volunteer and CE hours
- The proposal by the committee is that all the specifics outlined in the documents will NOT be included in the By Laws. The By Law references will remain more general, with links to the specifics in Google documents that could be updated in a more timely manner.
- Scholarships for Associate Members going on to complete Master Gardener On Boarding education will require a budget line to be added.
- A motion was made by Bernie Jansen to present the Associate Membership proposal to the NEWMGA general membership for approval. The motion was seconded by Megan Fierst and passed unanimously.

#### 6. By Law Changes—status report by Kate F. (two page document with proposed changes)

- In the Mission Statement spell out Northeastern Wisconsin Master Gardener...
- Membership—add Associated Member category
- Membership meetings—add capability to hold a special meeting with a 14 day notice from the secretary, (not just an annual meeting)
- Remove the assignments of specific executive officers as advisors to specific committees.
- Clarify the role of past president serving as the one to break a tie vote for the executive board and/or for the general board
- Kate would also like to see a google link to our organization's history in the By Laws.
- The final proposed changes will be ready for the September 2024 board meeting.

7. Foundation & Foundation Ad hoc Committee report by Annette Weissbach
  - a. General Foundation Report update—since last May the fund has increased by \$12,300 (\$3000 into the scholarship fund and \$9000 into the unrestricted fund). There were 5 applicants for the 2024 scholarship. The Greater Green Bay Community Foundation awarded 3 scholarships—one for \$2000 and two for \$1000. There is currently \$85,576.08 in the scholarship fund and \$245, 232.35 in the unrestricted fund. NEWMGA did not take any money from the unrestricted fund this past fiscal year.
  - b. Foundation Ad Hoc recommendations (Two page document was presented to the board with 3 recommendation categories)
    - First overall recommendation was to update the contract that Northeastern Wisconsin Master Gardeners have with the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation (GGBCF) for the Horticulture Endowment/Education Fund which dates back to the year 2000
    - Second recommendation is to meet with Kari Olsen of GGBCF to update scholarship eligibility parameters.
    - Third recommendation a list of suggestions for uses of money from the Unrestricted Fund (UF)—among these were financially assisting other gardening organizations and collaborate on local hort initiatives, partial reimbursement of Associate members who complete the MG certification, fund an education/outreach staff person, and transfer some money into the scholarship fund to increase value of scholarships that could be awarded.
    - After much discussion, it was decided to address the recommendation of funding and Education/Outreach Staff person separately at a later date.
    - Sherill Revolinski made a motion to approve updating the fields of study included in the NEWMGA Scholarship eligibility. The motion was seconded by Paula King and the motion passed.
    - Any changes that need to be made to By laws in regards to the Foundation/funds will be discussed at the next board meeting.
8. Other Business
  - \$500 anonymous donation was made to NEWMGA in honor of Judy Knudson—will later discuss suggestions of its use
  - Applications for WIMGA grants are due Oct. 1—please get them to Eileen Rueden by Sept. 20
9. A motion was made by Sherrill Revolinski to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bernie Jansen. The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

**Next meeting September 11, 2024 6:00 pm Rm131 STEM**