

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 10, 2019
Eau Claire County Extension Office

In attendance: Mary Jane Griffin Dick Lienhardt, Nina Logan, Chris Southworth, Nancy Spak, Paula Bonnin, Lori Kempen, Ellen Terwilliger, Carla Pelzl

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by President Mary Jane Griffin at 1:18 P.M.

Board officers for 2019: Those who served as officers for 2018 and will continue through 2019 are President, Mary Jane Griffin; Vice President, Dick Lienhardt; Secretary, Carla Pelzl; and Treasurer, Ede Strand. Paula Bonnin made a motion to approve having these four members continue in their positions for another year. Motion was seconded by Ellen Terwilliger and passed by the board.

Plant Sale: Dick Lienhardt is willing to help supply plants for the sale in June. He said transplants like tomatoes and marigolds do not sell well at the sale because many gardeners have already purchased plants or started them from seed. Dick suggested purchasing trailing petunia starts and planting them three to a hanging basket. The association will cover the cost of the pots, soil and plants. Dick will grow them on in his greenhouse. They can be sold for maybe \$15.00 each. He would also consider raising herb transplants because those would likely still sell well in June. Ellen moved that we accept Dick's gracious offer and that the association will reimburse him for supplies and other related expenses. The motion was approved.

Secretary's report: The minutes of the November board meeting were reviewed and approved as written. Mary Jane Griffin thanked Carla for her service as Secretary.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Ede Strand was unable to be at the meeting. She will provide a full report at the February meeting.

Horticulture Coordinator position: The new position of Horticulture Coordinator has been approved. The coordinator's services will be shared by four counties, Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, and Pierce, with each county contributing 25 percent of the cost of the position. This position will coordinate all educational horticulture programming and support the Master Gardener program.

Education Committee Report: Erin LaFaive will present information on using herbs at our January 21st meeting. Carla Pelzl will be joining Lori Kempen and Nina Logan on the Education Committee. They will be meeting to plan educational programming for 2019. Suggestions for topics and speakers are always welcome.

Garden Seminar publicity: The February 2019 garden seminar is listed on the WIMGA website events calendar. It should also be added to the various county Master Gardener websites. Paula Bonnin offered to help get the information to the contacts for the associations.

Eau Claire Garden Club education event: Nancy Spak, who is also a member of the Eau Claire Garden Club, announced that they will again host an educational presentation for the public at L.E. Phillips Public Library in March. Marilyn Saffert will be the presenter and her topic will be "Hydrangeas".

WIMGA Report: Ellen Terwilliger reported that this year (2019) there is no state-wide Master Gardener conference planned. Rather, it has been proposed that efforts be put into planning regional leadership conferences.

Grant to be returned: Nancy Spak mentioned that the \$400 grant that was awarded to help with hosting Brent Heath as a speaker will be returned, since that event was canceled due to the total costs involved. Paula Bonnin has notified the other MG associations of the cancellation. Ellen Terwilliger will draft an email with an online brochure attached to promote the new speaker and topic for the March presentation at the library. This will be sent out to the county MG associations so they can forward the information to their members.

Barron County Garden Seminar: The seminar is Saturday, April 6, 2019 at the Rice Lake Technical College. The seminar flyer is not yet available.

New Business:

Member in Good Standing: Mary Jane distributed Member in Good Standing cards at the meeting. The card confirms that the the recipient has completed the necessary service hours and paid dues for the year.

Horticulture scholarships: CVTC has asked if our organization might again wish to provide two scholarships to be awarded to students in their horticulture program. We had donated two \$500 scholarships last year, but only one student had applied. It was decided that CVTC could award the scholarship unused scholarship from last year, and our organization will supply a second \$500 scholarship.

MGA website: Ellen is working on getting access to our website so it can be refreshed and kept up to date. She suggested that we have a universal password and that all documents pertaining to our association's business be stored on that site rather than on the officers' personal computers. She also recommended separate email accounts for each office, such as ecmgasecretary@gmail.com.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:10 P.M. The next meeting is Thursday, February 14th at 1:00 P.M. at the Extension Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Pelzl, Secretary