

Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Board Meeting
Washington County Extension Office
June 3, 2024

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Barbara Voigt, Carl Voigt, Brenda McKinnis, John Hitchcock, Mary Ann Lovelace, Chris Ramsey, Don Davis, Janet Smith, Karen Rowell, Jackie Knight

MEMBERS ABSENT: Millie Sue Hawk, Valerie Jondahl, Kathy Wagner, Larry Wagner, Betts Leach, Gwen Ellis, Heather Duby, Mary Cain, Susie Morrison, Adam Watson, Mary Todd, Linda Spisak

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Karen Rowell called the meeting to order.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Janet Smith. Brenda McKinnis requested that Chris Ramsey's name be removed from the present list as he was absent from the meeting. Brenda McKinnis made the motion to approve the minutes and John Hitchcock seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by the board after changes were noted.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mary Ann Lovelace presented the budget as of 06/03/24.

John Hitchcock made the motion to approve the treasurer's report and Don Davis seconded the motion. The report was approved by the board.

PROJECT REPORT AND GRANTS FOR 2023: Don Davis

Don Davis requested that NETMGA take on a new Project at the Old Deery Inn in Blountville, Tennessee. The Historical Museum is managed by Sullivan County and the Tennessee Historical Association. The gardens used to be maintained by convicts, but that option is no longer available. Don said that Kate O'Lenic has agreed to be the project leader. The board recommended that the project be approved. Carl Voight requested a description of the Deery project for the NETMGA website.

Don stated that he has not received an application from Adam Watson concerning Lincoln Park yet. There are nine grants that have been distributed to various projects as of 06/03/24.

PROGRAMS FOR 2024: Brenda McKinnis

Brenda McKinnis suggested the following programs for membership meetings:

August: A picnic at Tipton Haynes Historical site including a lecture on Pollinators.

October: A lecture/demonstration on Propagation at the Hands-on Discovery Museum Garden.

MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION REPORT: Mary Cain (Absent)

PUBLICITY: Brenda McKinnis (Nancy Shilling)

John Hitchcock proposed a stand for the brochures on the table whenever NETMGA has a booth at various events. The brochures often fly off the table with any gust of wind. He agreed to run off colored copies of the brochures at Office Depot.

Karen Rowell stated the Association needs a new table because the one used at events is too heavy. Brenda McKinnis agreed to price tables from various stores to find the best value.

COMMUNICATIONS: Heather Duby (Absent)

NEWSLETTER: Betts Leach (Absent)

FACEBOOK: Valerie Jondahl (Absent)

MENTORS: John Hitchcock

Asking Project leaders to mentor new interns seems to have worked out well.

WEBSITE: Carl & Barbara Voigt

Carl and Barbara updated the web site to include officers and new projects.

HOSPITALITY: Larry & Kathy Wagner (Susie Morrison) (Absent)

Brenda McKinnis suggested that this committee be rolled into the Program Committee because both cover similar projects.

WASHINGTON COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT: Adam Watson (Absent)

SULLIVAN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT: Chris Ramsey

Chris Ramsey stated that he will be retiring in September 2024 and expressed concerns that the 2025 Master Gardener Class may not happen because he did not know if his replacement would be hired in time. Carl Voight asked how we access the endowment money if there is no extension agent to contact. Karen stated that fifteen people signed up for information about the 2025 class at the booth at the Jonesborough Garden Tour so there is an interest in it. Chris said he would contact his supervisors concerning his replacement and find the answers to the questions about endowment money and the 2025 class's future.

Chris stated that there was a request for Master Gardeners to help revitalize the Community Garden in Kingsport. Karen Rowell said that a Master Gardener must be the project leader for other Master Gardeners to work at the site. She suggested the group that

wants to revise the garden contact other leaders of existing community gardens to get organizational information.

NEW BUSINESS:

Karen Rowell expressed concern that very few of the members of the 2024 Master Gardener Class were volunteering at the Master Gardener projects. Board Members suggested the following reasons:

1. New Gardeners often do the grunt work.
2. Some new gardeners did not feel that they were engaged in decision making concerning the projects.
3. The presentation concerning the projects was too long and may need to be cut in half and presented on separate dates.
4. Some projects were not active in early spring so the new gardeners could not visit the sites in which they were interested.

A subcommittee was formed to address the concerns listed above and produce workable solutions.

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING PLANS: (Review Notes under program)

NEXT BOARD MEETING: July 8, 2024, at the Washington County Extension Office at 6:30 pm.